

**INSIDE TODAY**

**U.S. NEWS**



President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden, makes a statement about the earthquake in Haiti, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, at the White House in Washington.

*Associated Press*

**Obama promises all-out relief effort**

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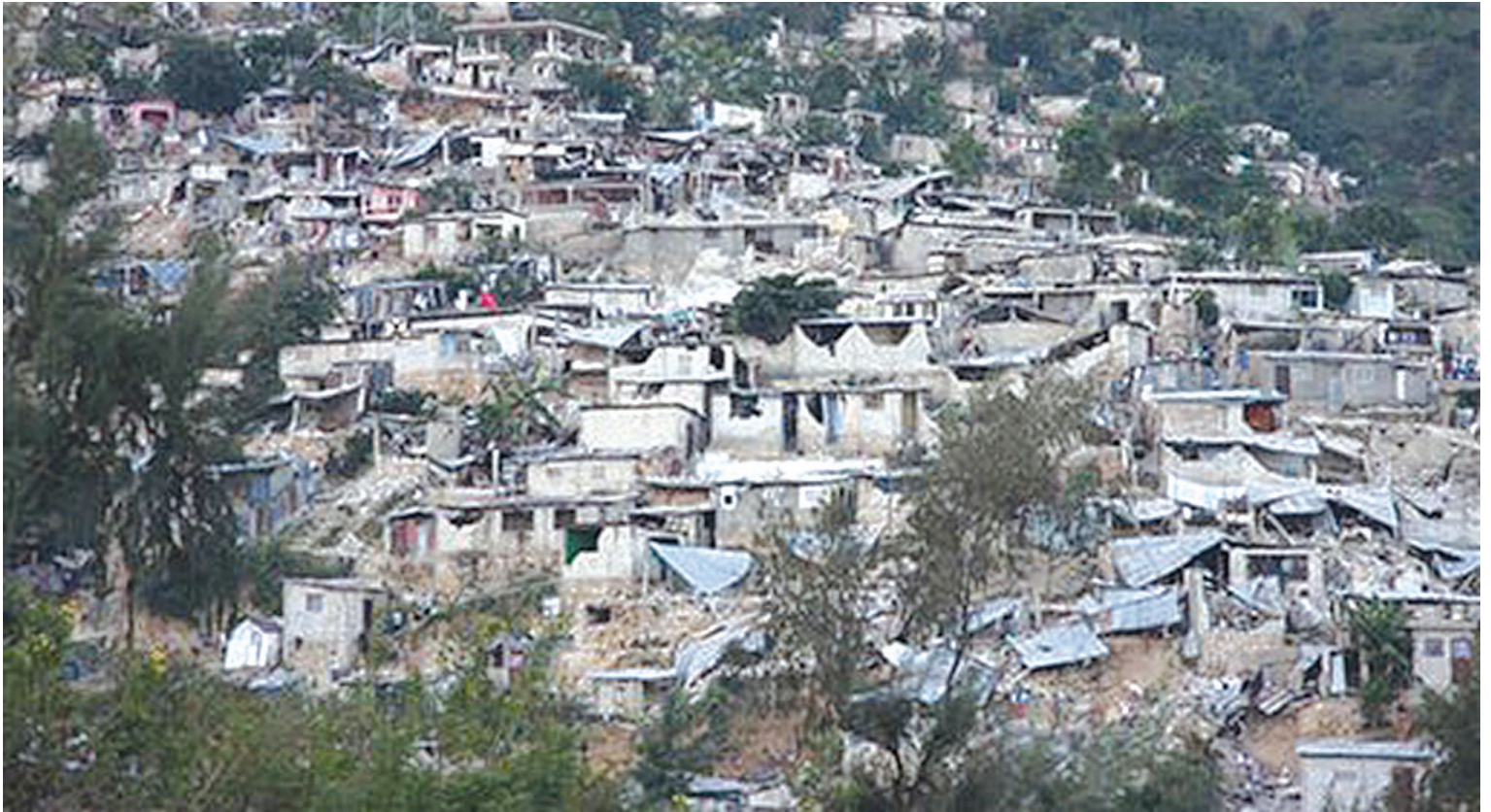
**SPORTS NEWS**

**TITANIC SEASON**



This is a Jan. 3, 2010, file photo showing Tennessee Titans' Chris Johnson running against the Seattle Seahawks in the second quarter during an NFL football game in Seattle. With a 2,000-yard rushing season and the most yards from scrimmage in NFL history, Chris Johnson ran away with The Associated Press 2009 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010.

*Read more on Page A13*



In this image made available by the American Red Cross in London, Wednesday Jan. 13, 2010 shows earthquake damage to a shanty town on the outskirts of Port au Prince, following a major earthquake in Haiti, Tuesday Jan. 12, 2010. Untold numbers were still trapped.

*Associated Press*

**Thousands feared dead in Haiti quake**

JONATHAN M. KATZ

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital Wednesday after a powerful earthquake flattened the president's palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, the main prison and whole neighborhoods. Officials feared thousands — perhaps more than 100,000 — may have perished but there was no firm count.

Death was everywhere in Port-au-Prince. Bodies of tiny children were piled next to schools. Corpses of women lay on the street with stunned expressions frozen on their faces as flies began to gather. Bodies of men were covered with plastic tarps or cotton sheets. President Rene Preval said he believes thousands were killed in Tuesday afternoon's magnitude-7.0 quake, and the scope of the destruction prompted other officials to give even higher estimates. Leading Sen. Youri Latortue told The Associated Press that 500,000 could be dead, although he acknowledged that nobody really knows.

"Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed," Preval told the Miami Herald. "There are a lot of schools that have a lot of dead

people in them."

Even the main prison in the capital fell down, "and there are reports of escaped inmates," U.N. humanitarian spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said in Geneva.

The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing and the Roman Catholic archbishop of Port-au-Prince was dead.

"The cathedral, the archbishop's office, all the big churches, the seminaries have been reduced to rubble," Archbishop Bernardito Auza, the apostolic envoy to Haiti, told the Vatican news agency FIDES.

The parking lot of the Hotel Villa Creole was a triage center. People sat with injuries and growing infections by the side of rubble-strewn roads, hoping that doctors and aid would come.

The international Red Cross said a third of Haiti's 9 million people may need emergency aid and that it would take a day or two for a clear picture of the damage to emerge.

At first light Wednesday, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter evacuated four critically injured U.S. Embassy staff to the hospital on the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the military has been detaining suspected terrorists.

*Continued on Page 8*

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President Barack Obama, accompanied by Vice President Joe Biden, makes a statement about the earthquake in Haiti, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, at the White House in Washington.

JULIE PACE  
MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials are laying out a massive military response to the Haiti earthquake, saying that ships, helicopters, transport planes and a 2,000-member Marine unit are either on the way or likely to begin moving soon.

Gen. Douglas Fraser, head of U.S. Southern Command, said Wednesday that one of the U.S. Navy's large amphibious ships will likely head to Haiti with

*Associated Press* a Marine expeditionary unit aboard. Fraser said other U.S. military forces are on alert, including a brigade, which includes about 3,500 troops. Fraser said during a news conference with other U.S. officials that the Pentagon is "seriously looking at" sending thousands of Marines to assist with disaster relief efforts and security in Haiti.

President Barack Obama promised earlier Wednesday to mount an all-out rescue and humanitarian effort to help the people of Haiti overcome a

## Obama promises all-out relief effort

"cruel and incomprehensible" tragedy." The president said the relief effort is gearing up even as the U.S. government is working to account for Americans who were on the island nation when the disaster struck late Tuesday afternoon. The initial contingent of 2,000 Marines could be deployed to the quake-ravaged country within the next few days to either help with emergency aid distribution or enforce law in order in conjunction with U.N. peacekeepers already there, Fraser said.

The general said that a U.S. aircraft carrier, the USS Carl Vinson, is also heading from Norfolk, Virginia, to the area and should arrive Thursday afternoon.

The dispatched troops would aim to keep the peace in the event of post-disaster unrest as part of a larger international effort overseen by the United Nations, whose peacekeeping operation headquarters was destroyed in the quake.

About 100 U.N. personnel are believed to be trapped in the ruins of the building.

"It's going to be our assessments that are going to determine, in conjunction with (the U.N. mission) and the other international partners who are there, how best to deal with any security situations that come up," Fraser said.

"We don't know precisely what the situation is on the ground," he added. "So we're leaning forward to provide as much as capability as quickly as we can to respond to whatever the need is when we get there."

More immediately, Fraser's Miami-based Southern Command is also dispatching a team of 30 people to Haiti to support relief efforts in the aftermath of the earthquake and make way for additional military aid.

Officials said two C-130 aircraft were departing Wednesday for Haiti with the team of military engineers, operational planners,

communications specialists and a command and control group. The Air Force is sending people to provide air traffic control and operations at the Port-au-Prince airport. Navy hospital ship the USNS Comfort is on standby in Baltimore, but U.S. Southern Command spokeswoman Heidi Lenzini said there has been no official activation order. The Navy says it takes up to five days to increase the 70-member skeleton crew to its full complement of about 800. Coast Guard helicopters early Wednesday evacuated four injured U.S. Embassy personnel to a hospital at the Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Southcom did not release their names.

Fraser said the military is also sending units to get Port-au-Prince's airport secured and operating again. The airport is considered "operational," he said, but the facility's tower and other operations were damaged. □



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# Bank leaders: Sorry for behavior, bad decisions

DANIEL WAGNER

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON

(AP)

— Wall Street executives said Wednesday they underestimated the severity of the 2008 financial crisis and apologized for risky behavior and poor decisions. They also defended their bonus and compensation practices to a skeptical U.S. commission investigating what caused the collapse.

Americans are furious and “have a right to be” about the hefty bonuses banks paid out after getting billions of dollars in federal help, the commission’s chairman told chief executives of four major banks, all survivors of the deepest and longest recession since the Depression.

As the hearings opened before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, chairman Phil Angelides pledged “a full and fair inquiry into what brought our financial system to its knees.”

The panel began its yearlong inquiry amid rising public fury over bailouts and bankers’ pay.

“We understand the anger felt by many citizens,” said Brian Moynihan, chief executive and president of Bank of America. “We are grateful for the taxpayer assistance we have received.”

“Over the course of the crisis, we as an industry caused a lot of damage,” Moynihan said. With Bank of America having repaid its bailout money, he said “the vast majority of our employees played no role in the economic crisis” and do not deserve to be penalized with lower compensation. Moynihan said compensation levels will be higher next year than they were in 2008 — but not at levels reached before the financial meltdown.

Jamie Dimon, chief executive of JPMorgan Chase & Co., said most of his employees took “significant cuts in compensation” in 2008. He said his company would continue to pay people in a “responsible and disciplined manner” to attract and retain top talent.

Still, Dimon said, “We did make mistakes and there were things we could have done better.”

John Mack, chairman of Morgan Stanley, said the crisis was “a powerful wake-up call for this firm.” He said he didn’t take a bonus in 2009 and that his bank has overhauled its compensation practices to discourage “excessive risk-taking.”

The other executives also said their companies had tightened bonus policies, including provisions to “claw back” some of the money when performance faltered.

Angelides, a former Democratic official, questioned Goldman Sachs’ Lloyd Blankfein about packaging soured assets into bond-like securities and selling them to investors — even as Goldman Sachs was “shorting” the same securities, or making inside bets they would fail. These included risky mortgages that were extended to borrowers with poor credit records and helped cause the home-loan bust.

“It sounds like selling a car with faulty brakes and then buying an insurance policy” on the driver, Angelides said in an animated exchange with the Goldman Sachs executive. Responded Blankfein: “I do think the behavior is improper. We regret the consequence that people have lost money in it.”

Like the other witnesses, Blankfein acknowledged lapses in judgment in some



From left, Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Lloyd Blankfein; JPMorgan Chase & Company Chairman and Chief Executive Officer James Dimon; Morgan Stanley Chairman John Mack, and Bank of America Corporation Chief Executive Officer and President Brian Moynihan, testify on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission.

practices leading up to the crisis.

“Whatever we did, it didn’t work out well,” he said. “We were going to bed every night with more risk than any responsible manager would want to have.”

The four bankers represent institutions that collectively received more than \$90 billion in direct government assistance from the \$700 billion federal bank bailout and availed themselves of billions from the Federal Reserve. Goldman Sachs received an additional \$12.9 billion in bailout money that had gone to AIG.

Angelides suggested that blame for the crisis was widespread among the largest U.S. financial institutions. “Maybe this is like ‘Murder on the Orient Express’ — Everybody did it,” he said, referring to the Agatha Christie murder mystery. The four bankers appeared before the panel for just over three hours before it turned to other

witnesses.

At the White House, presidential press secretary Robert Gibbs said that President Barack Obama on Thursday will outline his plan to make sure taxpayers are able to recoup the money they are owed in the bailouts.

The president is expected to announce a new fee on the country’s biggest financial firms to recover up to \$120 billion. Of the bankers’ testimony, Gibbs said, “It would seem to me that apology would be the least of what anybody could expect.” □

Associated Press

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# Senator: U.S. should consider drone attacks in Yemen



U.S. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., the chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee talks during a press conference accompanied by Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., in Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010. Levin said that there is a major shortage of instructors needed to train Afghan forces.

*Associated Press*

**ANNE FLAHERTY**

**Associated Press Writer**  
WASHINGTON (AP)

— A Senate chairman said Wednesday that the U.S. should consider whether air strikes, armed drones and clandestine operations are necessary in Yemen to defeat an emboldened al-

Qaida force there.

The remark by Democratic Sen. Carl Levin, who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee, is a rare admission by a senior U.S. official that direct U.S. military action in Yemen is possible, if it hasn't happened already.

Such operations are highly classified.

Short of a ground invasion, "we ought to consider a broad range of options in Yemen because the broad-ranging threat of al-Qaida," Levin told reporters following a three-day trip to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Al-Qaida forces in Yemen have emerged in recent months as a pressing threat to U.S. security, with ties to the recent airline bombing plot and military base shooting.

The White House and Pentagon have said there are no plans to send ground troops there, and Yemen has made clear it wouldn't want them. Remaining options would include covert strikes against al-Qaida targets and increased aid to help train and equip Yemen's own security forces.

Gen. David Petraeus, the head of U.S. Central Command, has said he would like to double military aid to Yemen, which is currently about \$67 million.

Levin said drone attacks similar to those conducted

in Pakistan should be considered because they have been successful in crippling al-Qaida forces along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border. He said he would expect the quiet permission of Yemen's government.

"We think the government of Yemen now understands this is a threat to them," he said.

Returning this month from what was supposed to be a quiet holiday break, key congressional leaders are summoning senior military and intelligence officials to Congress for private and public testimony on the terrorist organization's grip on the Arabian Peninsula. They say they want accountability, particularly in the case of the government's failure to keep a suspected terrorist from boarding a U.S.-bound jet.

"When something goes wrong when it shouldn't, someone dropped the ball," said Rep. Ike Skelton, a Democrat and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

The congressional inquiry follows a string of security lapses that have embarrassed the Obama administration and highlighted the difficulty in defeating a terrorist network whose reach extends beyond Iraq and Afghanistan.

Lawmakers and their aides said in recent interviews that Yemen has long been on a primary concern for Congress as well as most military and intelligence officials. But the sense of urgency has increased in recent weeks following reports that al-Qaida forces in Yemen were linked to two major U.S. attacks.

The alleged gunman who killed 13 people at the Fort Hood Army post in Texas last November had been in contact with a radical cleric in Yemen. The same cleric has been tied to the Nigerian man who had reportedly trained with al-Qaida forces in Yemen before carrying explosives aboard a Detroit-bound plane.

"They are broadening their net. They are recruiting world wide. How do we turn that around?" said Rep. Adam Smith, a Washington Democrat who will be helping to lead an inquiry into Yemen security as chairman of the House Armed Services Committee terrorism subcommittee. The Senate Foreign Relations Committee, chaired by Democratic Sen. John Kerry, also was considering taking up the issue, including a possible staff-written report following a recent trip there by committee aides. □

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# Pa. state trooper shot, killed, suspect found dead

By JOE MANDAK

Associated Press Writer

CRANBERRY, Pa. — A state trooper responding to a domestic call Wednesday was fatally shot as he got out of his cruiser, and the suspected gunman was later found dead inside the home along with the body of his wife.

Trooper Paul G. Richey, a 16-year veteran, and another trooper arrived at the home at about 11:30 a.m. when a shot was fired from inside, killing

Richey.

“Trooper Richey sacrificed his life rather than swerve from the path of duty,” state Police Commissioner Frank E. Pawlowski said in a statement. “We will not forget his service or his sacrifice.”

Richey, 40, of Franklin, is survived by a wife and two young children.

The shooting happened in a rural, heavily wooded area outside Oil City, about 80 miles north of Pittsburgh. Dozens

of state police cruisers, many unmarked, quickly converged on the area and remained there hours later blocking roads and searching cars.

At about 6:15 p.m., a police team entered the home and found the body of the suspect and his wife.

“At this point, we have the suspect who we believe is responsible for this, the suspect’s wife and the trooper,” Sgt. Mark Zaleski said Wednesday evening.

Police did not immediately release the name of the suspect or his wife. However, officers during the day had been showing motorists the driver’s license picture of Michael Smith, who lives on the road where the shooting occurred.

Paul Solle, 83, who lives about three-quarters of a mile from Smith’s home, said hundreds of officers were in the area. He said he was heeding their advice to stay inside, where he was watching coverage of the shooting on TV.

Solle said he knew who Smith was but didn’t know him well.

“He just seemed like an average guy to me,” Solle said. “The neighbors don’t associate here, not that they don’t get along, it’s just that they do their own thing.”

Earlier in the day, a high school and elementary school were on lockdown, though children were being taken home two busses at a time or allowed to leave if their parents picked them up.

Clarion University’s Venango campus also was put on



lockdown. On its Web site, the university cautioned students to avoid the area or “secure yourself in a safe place and wait for police.”

Gov. Ed Rendell called the shooting a tragedy and ordered flags on state buildings be flown at half-staff in honor of Richey.

Richey is the 93rd member of the state police to be killed in the line of duty. His death comes about seven months after the agency’s last fatal shooting. Trooper Joshua D. Miller was killed in June during the rescue of a kidnapped child in Monroe County. □

## Texas debates the way history will be taught

By APRIL CASTRO

Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Students, parents and lawmakers lobbied Wednesday for more diversity in Texas’ social studies curriculum, before the state board of education adopts new classroom standards that will determine how history is taught for the next decade.

In more than six hours of public testimony, dozens of people took their chance to help shape the way millions of Texas school children learn topics from the Roman Empire to the entrepreneurial success of billionaire Bill Gates.

The public hearing sets up a tentative vote Thursday on the new standards. But, as usual in votes before the conservative-led board, the wide-reaching guidelines are full of potential ideological flashpoints.

Early quibbles over how much prominence to give civil rights leaders such as Cesar Chavez and the inclusion of Christmas seem to have been smoothed over. Board Chairman Gail Lowe said at the start of the hearing that Chavez and Christmas will not be removed from the standards.

But board members are crafting dozens of amendments to be raised for consideration before the tentative vote. The 15-member board won’t adopt final standards until March.

The curriculum it chooses will set the guideposts for teaching history and social studies to some 4.8 million K-12 students for 10 years. The standards will be used to develop state tests and by textbook publishers who develop material for the

nation based on Texas, one of the largest markets.

State Rep. Norma Chavez, D-El Paso, noted the lack of any Latinos in fifth-grade social studies lessons and asked the board to add Cesar Chavez, Texas’ first Mexican American female legislator, Rep. Irma Rangel, and longtime Congressman Henry B. Gonzalez to the list of required learning.

“We may not have landed on Plymouth Rock, but our contributions to the Southwest will not be marginalized,” Chavez said. Dozens of three-

minute speeches echoed her concerns.

But Donna Starnes, a Dallas woman suggested that too much emphasis was already being placed on ethnicity in the proposed draft.

“Children need to learn that they are Americans first and foremost and every American citizen has the ability to move beyond past injustices,” Starnes said. “Let’s teach our children about the best examples of achievement through hard work and struggle. ... Let’s not encourage children to be victims.” □

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In this Monday, Jan. 11, 2010 photo, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, Danny Ayalon, left, meets with Turkish ambassador to Israel Ahmet Oguz Celikkol, right, in Jerusalem.

Associated Press

#### MARK LAVIE

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel on Wednesday caved in to demands from Turkey and apologized over an insult to its ambassador, a government statement said, an attempt to defuse the latest crisis between the two nations.

On Monday, Israel's deputy foreign minister, Danny Ayalon, summoned the Turkish

ambassador to complain about a TV show. The ambassador was forced to sit on a low sofa without a handshake, while Ayalon explained to local TV stations that the humiliation was intentional.

Outraged, Turkey threatened to recall the ambassador.

Late Wednesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said a letter of apology has been written,

# Israel apologizes to Turkey over insult

and the premier "hopes this will end the affair." Israeli officials said the letter was delivered to Turkish officials in Ankara.

Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan accepted the apology.

"We have received the answer that we had been waiting for," he said.

The text of letter to the ambassador was released later Wednesday by Ayalon's office.

It said in part, "although we have our differences of opinion on several issues, they should be discussed and solved only through open, reciprocal and respectful diplomatic channels between our two governments. ... I

had no intention to humiliate you personally and apologize for the way the demarche was handled and perceived."

The crisis erupted Monday, when Ayalon summoned the Turkish ambassador, Ahmet Oguz Celikkol, to complain about a Turkish television drama that has been perceived as anti-Semitic.

The show, "The Valley of the Wolves," depicts Israeli security forces kidnapping children and shooting old men.

Ayalon's detailed explanation of his insult to Israeli TV crews in the room was made in Hebrew, and the ambassador did not react.

Asked Wednesday what would have happened if Ayalon

had made the comments in English instead of Hebrew, Celikkol said, "The meeting would have ended there, and I would just have left." He was interviewed in Tel Aviv by Turkey's state-run Anatolia news agency.

Earlier Wednesday, Ayalon issued a statement admitting that his behavior was undiplomatic, but falling short of an apology. Turkey rejected that and threatened to withdraw its ambassador if a formal apology was not forthcoming.

Over the past decade, the two states had built up a strong relationship, including military cooperation and tourism, making Turkey Israel's closest ally in the Muslim world. □



## SCHEDULE FOR WEEK OF JANUARI 14 - JANUARI 20

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<b>R</b>	<b>BROTHERS</b>	daily: 6:15 matinee: 8:45	late show: 11:15	<b>NEW</b>
<b>G</b>	<b>HACHIKO: A DOG'S STORY</b>	daily: 7:30 matinee: 9:45	late show: 12:00	<b>NEW</b>
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE BLIND SIDE</b>	daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:15	6:45 late show: 9:30 12:00	
<b>PG</b>	<b>ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"</b>	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	6:00 late show: 2:00	
<b>PG</b>	<b>OLD DOGS</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:15	6:15 2:15 8:15 10:15 late show: 12:15	
<b>G</b>	<b>THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG</b>	daily: 5:15 matinee: 12:45	3:00 late show:	
<b>R</b>	<b>NINJA ASSASSIN</b>	daily: 8:00 matinee: 10:15	late show: 11:30	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>AVATAR 3D</b>	daily: 4:30 matinee: 1:15	7:45 late show: 11:00	<b>3D</b>
<b>PG</b>	<b>FANTASTIC MR. FOX</b>	daily: 4:15 matinee: 12:15	2:15 late show:	

### AT PASEO HERENCIA

<b>R</b>	<b>THE BOOK OF ELI</b>	daily: 4:00 matinee: 1:45	6:15 late show: 8:30 11:00	<b>NEW</b>
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>SHERLOCK HOLMES</b>	daily: 5:30 matinee: 2:30	8:30 late show: 11:30	
<b>PG</b>	<b>ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"</b>	daily: 4:00 matinee: 12:00	6:00 late show: 2:00	
<b>G</b>	<b>THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG</b>	daily: 4:30 matinee: 12:00	2:15 late show:	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>IT'S COMPLICATED</b>	daily: 6:45 matinee: 9:15	late show: 11:45	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE IMAGINARIUM OF DOCTOR PARNASSUS</b>	daily: 6:00 matinee: 12:30	8:45 late show: 11:30	
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>AVATAR 3D</b>	daily: 4:45 matinee: 1:30	8:00 late show: 11:15	<b>3D</b>
<b>R</b>	<b>ARMORED</b>	daily: 8:00 matinee: 10:00	late show: 12:00	

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# Thousands feared dead in Haiti quake

JONATHAN M. KATZ

Associated Press Writer

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — Haitians piled bodies along the devastated streets of their capital Wednesday after a powerful earthquake flattened the president's palace, the cathedral, hospitals, schools, the main prison and whole neighborhoods. Officials feared thousands — perhaps more than 100,000 — may have perished but there was no firm count.

Death was everywhere in Port-au-Prince. Bodies of tiny children were piled next to schools. Corpses of women lay on the street with stunned expressions frozen on their faces as flies began to gather. Bodies of men were covered with plastic tarps or cotton sheets.

President Rene Preval said he believes thousands were killed in Tuesday afternoon's magnitude-7.0 quake, and the scope of the destruction

prompted other officials to give even higher estimates. Leading Sen. Youri Latortue told The Associated Press that 500,000 could be dead, although he acknowledged that nobody really knows.

"Parliament has collapsed. The tax office has collapsed. Schools have collapsed. Hospitals have collapsed," Preval told the Miami Herald. "There are a lot of schools that have a lot of dead people in them." Even the main prison in the capital fell down, "and there are reports of escaped inmates," U.N. humanitarian spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said in Geneva.

The head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission was missing and the Roman Catholic archbishop of Port-au-Prince was dead.

"The cathedral, the archbishop's office, all the big churches, the seminaries have been reduced to rubble," Archbishop Bernardito Auza,

the apostolic envoy to Haiti, told the Vatican news agency FIDES.

The parking lot of the Hotel Villa Creole was a triage center. People sat with injuries and growing infections by the side of rubble-strewn roads, hoping that doctors and aid would come.

The international Red Cross said a third of Haiti's 9 million people may need emergency aid and that it would take a day or two for a clear picture of the damage to emerge.

At first light Wednesday, a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter evacuated four critically injured U.S. Embassy staff to the hospital on the U.S. Naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where the military has been detaining suspected terrorists.

President Barack Obama promised an all-out rescue and humanitarian effort, adding that the U.S. commitment to its hemispheric neighbor will



In this image made available by the American Red Cross in London, Wednesday Jan. 13, 2010 shows earthquake damage to a shanty town on the outskirts of Port au Prince, following a major earthquake in Haiti, Tuesday Jan. 12, 2010. Untold numbers were still trapped.

Associated Press

be unwavering.

"We have to be there for them in their hour of need," Obama said.

A small contingent of U.S. ground troops could be on their way soon, although it was unclear whether they would be used for security operations or humanitarian efforts. Gen. Douglas Fraser, commander of

the U.S. Southern Command, said roughly 2,000 Marines as part of an expeditionary unit might be deployed aboard a large-deck amphibious ship. Fraser said the ship could provide medical help. Other nations — from Iceland to Venezuela — said they would start sending in aid workers and rescue teams. □



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**HAITI QUAKE****Continued from Front Page**

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Other nations — from Iceland to Venezuela — said they would start sending in aid workers and rescue teams. Cuba said its existing field hospitals in Haiti had already treated hundreds of victims. The United Nations said Port-au-Prince’s main airport was “fully operational” and open to relief flights.

The U.S. Navy aircraft carrier, USS Carl Vinson, is under way and expected to arrive off the coast of Haiti Thursday. Additional U.S. Navy ships are under way to Haiti, a statement from the U.S. Southern Command said.

Aftershocks continued to rattle the capital of 2 million people as women covered in dust clawed out of debris, wailing. Stunned people wandered the streets holding hands. Thousands gathered in public squares to sing hymns.

U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes said it was possible that the death toll “will be in the thousands.”

“Initial reports suggest a high number of casualties and, of course, widespread damage but I don’t have any figure that I can give you with any reliability of what the number of casualties will be,” Holmes said.

People pulled bodies from collapsed homes, covering them with sheets by the side of the road. Passers-by lifted the sheets to see if loved ones were underneath. Outside a crumbled building, the bodies of five children and three adults lay in a pile.

The prominent died along with the poor: the body of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, 63, was found in the ruins of his office, said the Rev. Pierre Le Beller of the Saint Jacques Missionary Center in Landivisiau, France. He told The Associated Press



**Haiti’s National Palace is seen damaged in Port-au-Prince, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010. A powerful earthquake struck the country on Tuesday. BELOW: A damaged building is seen after an earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010. The largest earthquake ever recorded in the area rocked Haiti on Tuesday. The earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 and was centered about 10 miles (15 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince.**

*Associated Press*

by telephone that fellow missionaries in Haiti had told him they found Miot’s body. Haiti’s Senate president was among those trapped alive inside the Parliament building. Much of the National Palace pancaked on itself.

The international Red Cross and other aid groups announced plans for major relief operations in the Western Hemisphere’s poorest country.

Many will have to help their own staff as well as stricken Haitians. Taiwan said its embassy was destroyed and the ambassador hospitalized. Spain said its embassy was badly damaged and France said its embassy also suffered damage. Tens of thousands of people lost their homes as buildings that were flimsy and dangerous even under normal conditions collapsed. Nobody offered an estimate of the dead, but the numbers were clearly enormous.

“The hospitals cannot handle all these victims,” said Dr. Louis-Gerard Gilles.

American Red Cross spokesman Eric Porterfield said that the agency has already exhausted the small amount of medical equipment and medical supplies



it had in Haiti and is sending more supplies, though it was not clear when they would arrive. Medical experts say disasters such as an earthquake generally do not lead to new outbreaks of infectious diseases, but they do tend to worsen existing health problems.

Haiti’s quake refugees likely will face an increased risk of dengue fever, malaria and measles — problems that plagued the impoverished country before, said Kimberley Shoaf, associate director of the UCLA Center for Public Health and Disasters. Some of the biggest immediate health threats include respiratory disease from inhaling dust from collapsed buildings and diarrhea from drinking contaminated water. With hospitals and clinics severely damaged, Haiti will also face risks of secondary infections. People seeking medical attention for broken bones and other injuries may not be able to get the help they need and may develop complications.

Dead bodies piled on the streets typically don’t pose a public health risk. But for a country wracked by violence, seeing the dead will exact a psychological toll.

An American aid worker was trapped for about 10 hours under the rubble of her mission house before she was rescued

by her husband, who told CBS’ “Early Show” that he drove 100 miles (160 kilometers) to Port-au-Prince to find her. Frank Thorp said he dug for more than an hour to free his wife, Jillian, and a co-worker, from under about a foot of concrete.

An estimated 40,000-45,000 Americans live in Haiti, and the U.S. Embassy had no confirmed reports of deaths among its citizens. All but one American employed by the embassy have been accounted for, State Department officials said.

Even relatively wealthy neighborhoods were devastated. An AP videographer saw a wrecked hospital where people screamed for help in Petionville, a hillside district that is home to many diplomats and wealthy Haitians as well as the poor.

At a destroyed four-story apartment building, a girl of about 16 stood atop a car, trying to see inside while several men pulled at a foot sticking from rubble. She said her family was inside.

“A school near here collapsed totally,” Petionville resident Ken Michel said after surveying the damage. “We don’t know if there were any children inside.” He said many seemingly sturdy homes nearby were split apart. The U.N.’s 9,000 peacekeepers in Haiti, many of whom are from Brazil, were distracted from aid efforts by their own

tragedy: Many spent the night hunting for survivors in the ruins of their headquarters.

U.N. peacekeeping chief Alain Le Roy said that at least 14 U.N. personnel were killed and 150 were still unaccounted for, including mission chief Hedi Annabi. Fifty-six others were injured, and seven of them were medically evacuated from the country.

Le Roy said the fatalities include 13 peacekeepers — 10 Brazilians and three Jordanians — and a Haitian civilian working for the U.N. peacekeeping mission in the country.

U.N. peacekeeping forces in Port-au-Prince are securing the airport, the port, main buildings and patrolling the streets, Le Roy said.

Brazil’s army said at least 11 of its peacekeepers were killed, while Jordan’s official news agency said three of its peacekeepers were killed. A state newspaper in China said eight Chinese peacekeepers were known dead and 10 were missing — though officials later said the information was not confirmed.

The quake struck at 4:53 p.m., and was centered 10 miles (15 kilometers) west of Port-au-Prince at a depth of only 5 miles (8 kilometers), the U.S. Geological Survey said. USGS geophysicist Kristin Marano called it the strongest earthquake since 1770 in what is now Haiti.

Video obtained by the AP showed a huge dust cloud rising over Port-au-Prince shortly after the quake as buildings collapsed.

Most Haitians are desperately poor, and after years of political instability the country has no real construction standards. In November 2008, following the collapse of a school in Petionville, the mayor of Port-au-Prince estimated about 60 percent of buildings were shoddily built and unsafe normally.

The quake was felt in the Dominican Republic, which shares the island of Hispaniola with Haiti, and in eastern Cuba, but no major damage was reported in either place.

With electricity out in many places and phone service erratic, it was nearly impossible for Haitian or foreign officials to get full details of the devastation.

“Everybody is just totally, totally freaked out and shaken,” said Henry Bahn, a U.S. Department of Agriculture official in Port-au-Prince. “The sky is just gray with dust.” □



# Massive aid effort begun for Haiti quake victims

BRADLEY S. KLAPPER  
FRANK JORDANS  
Associated Press Writers

GENEVA (AP) — Sniffer dogs, high-energy biscuits and tons of emergency medical aid were heading to Haiti on Wednesday as governments and aid groups launched a massive relief effort for the estimated 3 million people reeling from a devastating earthquake.

Aid officials in the impoverished Caribbean nation worked to clear rubble from roads, build makeshift hospitals and remove bodies from the rubble despite transportation problems and broken phone lines.

Wintry weather in Europe added to the challenge, with snow temporarily delaying a British aid flight with 64 firefighters and rescue dogs at Gatwick airport.

As it struggled to gauge the full scale of the catastrophe, the United Nations said it was rushing food, personnel and medical supplies to alleviate the “major humanitarian emergency.” It also confirmed at least 140 members of its own staff were missing under flattened roofs in the Haitian capital, Port-au-Prince.

“We’ll be using whatever roads are passable to get aid to Port-au-Prince, and if possible we’ll bring helicopters in,” said Emilia Casella, a spokeswoman for the U.N. food agency. Its 200 staff in Haiti were trying to deliver high-energy biscuits and other supplies, despite looting and the threat of violence in a nation long plagued by lawlessness.

Humanitarian officials said the proximity of the quake’s epicenter, only 10 miles (15 kilometers) from Port-au-Prince’s sprawling slums and hilltop villas, as well as Haiti’s crumbling infrastructure, meant it was difficult to estimate how many people might be dead or injured. But the sheer number of dead bodies was expected to pose a problem. The World Health Organization said it has sent specialists to help clear the city of corpses and prevent the spread of disease, and the Red Cross was sending a plane Thursday loaded mainly with body bags.

The Red Cross estimated that 3 million people will require aid, ranging from shelter to food

and clean water, and said many Haitians could need relief for a full year.

“There are many, many people trapped in the rubble,” said Paul Conneally, spokesman for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent societies. “We’re not optimistic at the moment.”

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the United States was offering full assistance — civilian and military.

Ships, helicopters, transport planes and a 2,000-member Marine unit are either on the way or likely to begin moving soon, U.S. officials said.

France dispatched 65 rubble-clearing specialists and six sniffer dogs for Haiti, while Spain was rushing three airplanes of rescuers and 100 tons of tents, blankets and cooking kits. Israel was sending in an elite army rescue unit of engineers and doctors. A military reconnaissance team from Canada was arriving in Haiti on Wednesday aboard a C-130 transport plane to assess the need for donated mosquito nets, basic household goods, tents and sanitation packages.

Dozens of other countries, including Britain, Germany, China, Mexico, Iceland and Venezuela, pledged rescue teams, doctors, cash and supplies.

The Red Cross said Haiti’s own disaster relief teams were “completely overwhelmed.”

“There’s no structured response at this point,” spokesman Simon Schorno told The Associated Press.

The early airlifts to Haiti will concentrate on search and rescue efforts, setting up makeshift hospitals and delivering food.

The Irish telecommunications company Digicel said it would donate \$5 million to aid agencies and help repair Haiti’s damaged phone network — essential for aid workers to coordinate their efforts.

Doctors Without Borders said it had already treated over 300 people in tents near where its Martissant health center was damaged. The injuries include broken bones and some severe burns from domestic gas containers that exploded in collapsed buildings. It



A worker for Action Medeor relief organization packs parcels in emergency health kits in Toenisvorst, western Germany, on Wednesday Jan. 13, 2010, to help the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. The sign reads : ‘Haiti Emergency’.

said hundreds more Haitians were being treated in tents elsewhere. U.N. humanitarian spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs said the neighboring Haitian cities of Carrefour and Jacmel also were heavily damaged. There is no electricity in Port-au-Prince, Byrs said, adding that the airport was open but not

connected by a serviceable road to the city.

Charles Vincent, a senior World Food Program official, said the U.N. already had 15,000 tons of aid in Port-au-Prince. It hoped to airlift 86 tons of high-energy biscuits from El Salvador, enough to feed 30,000 people for a week, but will

reroute the shipment through the neighboring Dominican Republic if aid cannot travel over the airport road to the Haitian capital.

Casella said U.N. peacekeepers and aid workers in Haiti would try to fill in holes and build temporary bridges to make key roads passable. □

Associated Press

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## Tobey Maguire not anticipating Oscar nod

By DERRIK J. LANG,  
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES — Tobey Maguire isn't sensing he'll receive an Oscar nomination. The 34-year-old "Spider-Man" actor, who will be competing alongside George Clooney and Morgan Freeman for the best dramatic actor trophy at the 67th annual Golden Globes on Sunday, is keeping modest about any possible Academy Awards recognition for his dark "Brothers" role as a soldier suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder after fighting in Afghanistan.

"In terms of a nomination, I expect not to be nominated," Maguire said during a recent interview. "And I'm totally OK with that. I'm just really excited about the attention the film has gotten. It's been a thrill to get a Golden Globe nomination and get some of the attention personally, but I'm honestly more excited that the film's gotten the attention." Maguire was passed over last month for a Screen Actors Guild nomination, which favored another portrayal of a soldier: Jeremy Renner's risk-taking bomb disposal

technician in "The Hurt Locker." Maguire called the performance of Renner, who didn't get a Golden Globe nod, "amazing" and said he appreciated another honest and authentic look at the effects of war.

"What happens to these people and their families can be very traumatic, and it can alter somebody's point of view of the world or how they relate to the world when they come back to society," said Maguire. "I think it's a very difficult thing for these folks to deal with. They often don't feel like they can share their experiences with anyone else." Besides Clooney ("Up in the Air") and Freeman ("Invictus"), Maguire will also be up against Jeff Bridges ("Crazy Heart") and Colin Firth ("A Single Man") at Sunday's Golden Globes ceremony hosted by Ricky Gervais, six days before voting closes for the Oscars. The "Spider-Man" star said he's not afraid of becoming the British comedian's punching bag. "I hope Ricky Gervais tries to poke fun at me," he said. "I think he's hilarious."



Actor Tobey Maguire poses for a photo in Beverly Hills, Calif. on Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010. Maguire has being in all three Spider-Man movies.

(AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

Sony Pictures and Marvel Studios announced earlier this week that Maguire and "Spider-Man" director Sam Raimi would not be returning to the superhero franchise for a planned fourth installment. Instead, a new cast and filmmaking team will produce a new "Spider-Man" movie that would focus on a much younger Peter Parker and debut in the summer of 2012.

## 'American Idol' starts strong without Paula Abdul

Wednesday.

By comparison, the 2009 debut episode saw a 10 percent drop compared to 2008.

It's an indication that "Idol" can capitalize on cast changes like Abdul's to resist potential viewer boredom as it ages. That will be further tested when judge Simon Cowell leaves after this season to launch another Fox talent contest, "The X Factor," next year. The 37.4 million who watched the 2007 debut represents the series' high point for opening nights.

"I think people love to love the show," said Mike Darnell, Fox's executive in charge of alternative programming. "It's one of the few phenomena that exist: the Super Bowl, the Oscars, 'American Idol.' It's an American tradition."

The tradition began in Britain as "Pop Idol," which was created by entertainment mogul Simon Fuller and

whose 19 Entertainment carried the concept to more than three-dozen TV markets worldwide. FremantleMedia North America teams with 19 Entertainment, a division of CKX Inc., in producing the U.S. version.

"What we've proved now, again, not that we need to prove anything, is this show is about the public's relationship with the fundamental things in life," said Fuller, calling "American Idol" "authentic" in its celebration of people's dreams and aspirations. Fans can accept change, he added: Who would have thought the James Bond movies would have become such a remarkable franchise over the years "with so many Bonds."

"American Idol" has been the top-rated show for five years among all viewers and for six years among the advertiser-favored 18 to 49 audience.

## Obama musical set to open in Germany

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER,  
Associated Press Writer

BERLIN — A musical about Barack Obama's "Yes we can" election campaign premieres in Germany this weekend, including love songs by the president to his wife Michelle and duets with Hillary Clinton.

Even John McCain and Sarah Palin are given stage time, with actors portraying the losing Republican candidates and belting out songs on their behalf.

In all, 30 singers, actors and dancers are to perform in the musical "Hope — the Obama Musical Story" when it opens at the Jahrhunderthalle concert hall in Frankfurt in a bilingual mix of English and German. The audience may recognize that many songs quote from the politicians' stump speeches during the 2008 U.S. presidential campaign.

The venue for the premiere seems appropriate since the optimism of Obamania remains largely intact in Germany, about a year after Obama, an accomplished public speaker, became America's first black president. One campaign highlight was a July 2008 speech to some 200,000 people in the heart of Berlin about the world, the U.S. and its place in it.

On Wednesday, the "Hope" performers were still working at their kicks on a small rehearsal stage in an industrial zone of the southwestern city of Karlsruhe.

"We are rehearsing every day for 12 hours now," Jimmie Wilson, who plays Obama, said in a telephone interview. "After the opening, we have to see what the feedback is like and then we'll go on tour."

The American once acted in Michael Jackson's musical "Sisterella."

The organizers of "Hope!" said that tickets are only available for the opening night in Frankfurt and that further performances there and in other German cities were still being planned.

"I had the idea (for the musical) during the presidential campaign. ... It was fascinating and the mood at the time fired my imagination," American writer Randall Hitchins said in a news release provided by the organizers. "All the people were hoping for a change for a better life and there was such a great, collective emotion."

While Hitchins initially only wanted to compose one song with the title "Yes, we can" — in reference to Obama's campaign slogan — he soon realized that the theme had the potential for more. He teamed up with producer Roberto Emmanuele, a German-Italian, and together they created the musical, which combines different musical styles, from pop, soul and gospel to hip hop and rock.

Set in Obama's hometown of Chicago and viewed through the eyes of people who share an apartment, the musical tries to show how Obama's campaign gave people at the time hope for change and belief in a better future.

"The story starts 20 years ago, when Obama worked as a community organizer in Chicago, and leads all the way to the 2008 campaign," said Wilson.

Most of the actors are American and many have performed in other German musicals.

As part of an interactive gimmick, the audience will be asked to participate in the show by playing tiny drums built into their chairs.

Tickets for the premiere can be bought online and range between (EURO)40 and (EURO)149 (\$58 and \$215).

Two other musicals about the president were performed in other countries last year: "Obama On My Mind" in London and "Obama: The Musical" in Nairobi, Kenya.



FILE - In this Nov. 22, 2009 file photo, artist Paula Abdul poses backstage at the 37th Annual American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

By LYNN ELBER,  
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Paula who? Despite losing judge Paula Abdul, "American Idol" started its ninth season on a high note with an estimated audience of nearly 30 million. Tuesday's viewership of 29.9 million is about 2 percent lower than last year's season debut audience of slightly more than 30 million, according to preliminary Nielsen Co. figures released



**BUSINESS**

Aruba TODAY

**Market advances as financial stocks rebound**By TIM PARADIS,  
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — The stock market closed higher, following the lead of financial stocks as the heads of several big banks testified before Congress about the financial crisis. Stocks fluctuated early Wednesday but strengthened as the questioning of bank officials proceeded with little in the way of confrontation.

Industries seen as safer in a weak economy, like health care and utilities, posted some of the biggest gains.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 54 points after trading above 10,700 for the first time in 15 months. Broader indicators also advanced. Treasury prices fell, pushing interest rates higher, after jumping on Tuesday.

Executives including Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Chairman and CEO Lloyd Blankfein, JPMorgan Chase & Co. CEO James Dimon, Morgan Stanley Chairman John Mack and

Bank of American Corp. CEO Brian Moynihan appeared before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission. It is the first meeting of the bipartisan, 10-member panel, which is investigating the near collapse of the financial system in the fall of 2008.

While the executives agreed that banks' actions contributed to the crisis that paralyzed the credit markets and worsened the recession, investors did not hear anything from the hearings that would encourage them to flee financial stocks. The questions about banks underscored how many concerns investors are juggling. After a strong first week of the year in stocks, a disappointing profit report from Alcoa Inc. late Monday is causing concern that the robust earnings investors had been expecting for the final quarter of 2009 might not materialize.

In much of 2009, companies boosted earnings by laying

off workers and slashing expenses. But the benefits of cost-cutting can only go so far, and investors are looking for signs that increases in revenue will lift earnings. Intel Corp. is expected to post results Thursday, and JPMorgan Chase & Co. reports Friday.

Stocks pulled higher in afternoon trading after the Federal Reserve said the economy is rebounding in more parts of the country. It added that economic activity remains at a "low level." The report, which provides readings on the U.S. economy by region and precedes the next meeting of the Fed's interest rate policymakers by two weeks, boosted hopes for a rebound.

Stephen Wood, chief market strategist at Russell Investments, expects improvements in economic and corporate news in 2010 will be incremental and that big gains seen in the market in the past 10 months will taper



**FILE** - In this Dec. 31, 2009 file photo, snow falls outside the New York Stock Exchange in New York. U.S. stock futures edged higher a day after a slide in the market as investors looked to Washington for testimony about the causes of the financial crisis from heads of Wall Street's biggest banks.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams, file)

off. "This might be like running on the beach with your shoes on. It's going to be a real slog," Wood said.

According to preliminary calculations, the Dow rose 53.51, or 0.5 percent, to 10,680.77. The index traded above 10,700 for the first time since Oct. 3, 2008, rising as high as 10,709.26.

The broader Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.46, or 0.8 percent, to 1,145.68, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 25.59, or 1.1 percent, to 2,307.90.

Bond prices fell after jumping Tuesday, pushing yields higher. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.80 percent from 3.72 percent late Tuesday. □

**AP source: Hershey works on solo bid for Cadbury**By MARC LEVY  
and SARAH SKIDMORE,

AP Business Writers

HARRISBURG, Pa. — The Hershey Co. is assembling a bid to acquire British candy maker Cadbury PLC without the help of Italian candy maker Ferrero International, a person familiar with Hershey's plans told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the company that bid first, American food giant Kraft, continued to defend its offer and issued an earnings forecast that may have been intended to show off its strength.

Hershey has been working on two parallel bids for Cadbury — one with Ferrero and one on its own. But Ferrero reportedly has withdrawn. Hershey is still crafting its own potential bid, one designed to top the \$16.5 billion hostile offer from Kraft Foods Inc., the person familiar with Hershey said.

The person, who spoke on condition of

anonymity because the person was not authorized to speak publicly about the matter, said Hershey hoped to avoid a bidding war by waiting until Cadbury's shareholders make a decision on Kraft's bid.

Kraft has until Feb. 2 to win support from a majority of shareholders. It said last week that it had received acceptance from holders of 1.5 percent of Cadbury shares to date. Kraft's deadline to increase its bid is Jan. 19.

A spokesman for the maker of Hershey's Kisses and Reese's peanut butter cups said that, as a matter of policy, the company does not comment on merger and acquisition issues.

Cadbury shares rose, adding 12.5 pence, or 1.6 percent, to close at 789.50 on the London Stock Exchange. Hershey shares fell \$1.14 to \$36.61 in trading Wednesday.

An Italian business daily reported Wednesday that Ferrero International SA is no longer interested in bidding for Cadbury. □



**In this combo made from file photos, Hershey's Chocolate Kisses are seen coming off a simulated production line at Hershey's Chocolate World in Hershey, Pa. on March 10, 2006, top, and Chocolate moves down the production line at the Cadbury factory in Birmingham, England on Nov. 20, 2009. The Hershey Co. is assembling a solo bid to acquire British candymaker Cadbury PLC without the help of Italian candymaker Ferrero International, a person familiar with Hershey's plans told The Associated Press on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010.**

(AP Photos)



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Steroid Era's real mystery: Not who, but how many.



**FILE** - This is a June 22, 2001, file photo showing San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, left, leading off first base in front of St. Louis Cardinals first baseman Mark McGwire in the first inning of a baseball game in St. Louis. McGwire has finally come clean, admitting he used steroids when he broke baseball's home run record in 1998. McGwire said in a statement sent to The Associated Press on Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, that he used steroids on and off for nearly a decade and he was apologizing. Others have been tainted but have denied knowingly using illegal drugs, including Bonds, Roger Clemens, Sammy Sosa and David Ortiz.

*Associated Press*

### Semenya's coach says she is free to compete

**DONNA BRYSON**

*Associated Press Writer*

**JOHANNESBURG (AP)** — Caster Semenya's coach says the 800-meter world champion is free to compete internationally despite an ongoing gender test investigation.

Michael Seme said Wednesday that he does not have details but learned from Semenya's lawyers that she can compete. Her lawyer, Greg Nott, was not immediately available to comment. "She's going to run in international events," Seme said, adding that she would start at local events as a training exercise.

Semenya, who turned 19 last week, has never been officially suspended by the International Association of Athletics Federations, pending results of the gender tests.

"We are still in the same position as before — no official IAAF comment until we have finished the inquiry — and I can't tell you how long the inquiry will take either," IAAF spokesman Nick Davies said.

Hours before the 800 final in Berlin in August, the IAAF said it had ordered gender tests to be conducted because of Semenya's muscular build and rapid improvement in times. Her future as a runner has been in doubt since.

"They are through with all those things," Seme said.

Semenya was also tested in South Africa before the world championships. In September, Australian newspapers reported that Semenya has male and female sexual organs, but the IAAF

**JIM LITKE**

*AP Sports Columnist*

**CHICAGO (AP)** — The most important mystery of baseball's Steroid Era was never who, but how many. In order to gauge how legitimate the sport we saw the last 20 years was, not to mention the next 20, knowing the number of users is much more useful than the names.

But we couldn't let the latest name pass without a few final words: While his apology was sincere, the more Mark McGwire opens his mouth, the harder it becomes to forgive him.

McGwire admitted Monday that he used steroids for a decade, including when he hit 70 homers in 1998.

Whether he genuinely believes it, or simply can't bring himself to see his accomplishments the way everybody else does, McGwire's home runs were not just the result of God-given ability and a terrific

work ethic. Pretending steroids played no part because they don't improve hand-eye coordination is being disingenuous or just plain dumb.

When McGwire's defense was presented to Dr. Gary Wadler, head of the World Anti-Doping Agency committee that draws up the list of banned substances, he was nearly speechless. He had just finished testifying as an expert witness on the topic in a federal court trial Tuesday in Mobile, Alabama.

"There's such a huge body of evidence that there's no question — none — whether anabolic steroids enhance performance," Wadler said finally. "Period."

When Charles Yesalis, professor emeritus at Penn State and another of the country's foremost experts on steroids, was asked about McGwire's contention, he was more expansive.

"Some players have made the argument that you can't make some guy a big behemoth and he's going to be in the majors. But if you have that rare, God-given skill of hitting 100 mph fastballs, and curveballs, and then you make that person bigger, the notion that being bigger after that skill doesn't help you, I can't even take seriously," Yesalis told SI.com. "You take Bambi and Godzilla with the same skill level, who's going to hit the ball better?"

Now back to the numbers.

To compare the accomplishments of McGwire's generation with past ones — the fabric that supposedly binds baseball through the years — we need to know how extensive the use of steroids was. I picked an All-Performance-Enhancing team for a column in 2006, and every year since, more and better players have become eligible.

Either because of their own admissions, as well as indictments, investigations or positive tests, we've nabbed sluggers, slap hitters, infielders, outfielders, power-pitchers and rag-armed relievers, whites, blacks and Latinos, nobodies and used-to-be-first-ballot Hall of Famers. We also know that it wasn't just ballplayers who gamed the system, even if they're the only ones called on the carpet so far.

Everyone was focused on squeezing every last dollar out of the long ball. Most of the ballparks that came online featured short home-run porches and several owners sought, and received, exemptions from commissioner Bud Selig to make them shorter still. Conveniently, the people in charge much closer to the field always seemed to be looking away.

*Continued on Page 14*



**This Aug. 28, 2009, file photo shows South African athlete Caster Semenya gesturing as the community and police officers look on, during her welcome home celebration from the world championships in Berlin, at the Masehlong village in Moletjie, outside of Polokwane, South Africa.**

*Associated Press*

has refused to confirm or deny those claims.

Semenya, who comes from a poor village in rural South Africa, first drew attention when she won the 800 title at the African junior championships last year, shaving more than eight seconds off her winning time from the Commonwealth Youth Games the previous year.

Semenya easily won the 800 world title in Berlin, beating the field by a large margin in a season's best 1 minute, 55.45 seconds. □



# Titans RB Johnson voted AP's top offensive player

**BARRY WILNER**

**AP Football Writer**

NEW YORK (AP) — With a 2,000-yard rushing season and the most yards from scrimmage in NFL history, Tennessee Titans running back Chris Johnson has run away with The Associated Press 2009 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award.

Considered the fastest man in pro football, Johnson was uncatchable in setting a league mark for yards from scrimmage (2,509) and becoming the sixth player with a 2,000-yard rushing season.

He is the first NFL player to finish with at least 2,000 yards rushing and 500 receiving (503).

That earned the second-year pro 38½ votes Wednesday from a nationwide panel of 50 sports writers and broadcasters who cover the NFL. Johnson easily beat New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees, who received nine votes.

"I kind of realize what I did and I feel like I had a dream season," said Johnson, who scored 16 touchdowns (14 rushing), second to Minnesota's Adrian Peterson, and tied the NFL mark with six consecutive games rushing for at least 125 yards.

Johnson, who has run a 40-yard dash in 4.2 seconds and believes he'll remain the NFL's fastest player unless a team signs Usain Bolt, has bigger dreams, too: breaking Eric Dickerson's single-season rushing record of 2,105 yards, and winning the league MVP award.

"I didn't even get one vote at all (for MVP)," Johnson said. "Like the season I had, it seemed like, 'What more do they want me to do?' That just felt like rookie of the year; it's a quarterback thing I guess."

Atlanta QB Matt Ryan beat out Johnson for 2008 Offensive Rookie of the Year.

Of course, if Johnson keeps posting phenomenal numbers, all kinds of honors and records should keep coming.

"That gives me something to look forward to next year," he said before focusing on

Dickerson's mark. "You go for 2,000 yards. I don't know what you can really say that makes you want to work harder or anything like that, so it's kind of a good thing and a bad thing me not getting the record."

Johnson's production was even more impressive considering the Titans began the season with six straight losses. He was a key reason for Tennessee's turnaround to 8-8.

Johnson became the first player to run for three TDs of 85 yards or longer in a season; no NFL player had even done that in a career. He'll start next season with a streak of 11 100-yard rushing games; Barry Sanders holds the record with 14 in 1997.

In November, Johnson rushed for 800 yards, the best month of any running back in NFL history. By then, it was a one-man show in the Tennessee backfield; as a rookie, Johnson split duties with LenDale White, and rushed for 1,228 yards and nine TDs. This season, White got only 64 carries a year after running for 15 touchdowns in 2008.

"I took a backseat to greatness," White noted. "I'm just happy to be a part of it, to make history with him," Titans quarterback Vince Young added. "He's going to be a great player. This is just his second year, that's the crazy part."

No one has rushed for 2,000 yards twice in a career. Titans coach Jeff Fisher says it would be unwise to bet against Johnson setting that precedent, too.

"I think he's one player that has a chance to do it again. He's young," Fisher said. "He's special. He has the potential to go the distance and change games and do those kinds of things." League MVP Peyton Manning of Indianapolis drew 1½ votes, and San Diego QB Philip Rivers got one.

Johnson is the first Titan to win the honor, but the third player in franchise history. Quarterback Warren Moon won in 1990 as a Houston Oilers, and Earl Campbell took the award from 1978-80 with the Oilers. □



This is a Dec. 6, 2009, file photo showing Tennessee Titans running back Chris Johnson (28) during the second half of an NFL football game against the Indianapolis Colts, in Indianapolis. With a 2,000-yard rushing season and the most yards from scrimmage in NFL history, Chris Johnson ran away with The Associated Press 2009 NFL Offensive Player of the Year award, Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010.

*Associated Press*

## Patriots LB Junior Seau retires again



In this Dec. 27, 2009 photo, New England Patriots linebacker Junior Seau (55) stands on the side lines against the Jacksonville Jaguars during an NFL football game in Foxborough, Mass. Seau is retiring again. The 12-time Pro Bowl linebacker, who returned to the New England Patriots this season, said in remarks to be broadcast on Showtime on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, that he has played his last game.

*Associated Press*

F O X B O R O U G H , Massachusetts (AP) — NFL great Junior Seau retired for the fourth time in four seasons on Wednesday, this time for good he said.

The 12-time Pro Bowl linebacker, who came out of retirement to rejoin the New England Patriots in midseason, said he was ending his 19-year career in remarks taped for broadcast on Wednesday on Showtime.

Seau played eight games for the Patriots this season, all as a reserve, finishing with last Sunday's 33-14 playoff loss to Baltimore in which he made a season-high five tackles.

"That's going to be my last game," he said during the interview.

Seau first left the NFL briefly in August 2006 after 13 seasons with San Diego and three with Miami. He signed with the Patriots four days later and started 14 of the 27 games he played for them over two seasons. He retired after the 2007 season, then came out of retirement for the final four games in 2008 before retiring after that season.

Seau, who turns 41 on Tuesday, made 15 tackles this season. □

## Seahawks CEO offered Dungy job of president

**By GREGG BELL**

**AP Sports Writer**

RENTON, Wash. — Seahawks chief executive Tod Leiweke took issue Tuesday with criticism he was less than genuine in interviewing minority candidates before Seattle hired Pete Carroll as its coach.

Speaking moments after he introduced Carroll as the eighth coach in Seattle's 34-year history, Leiweke said he offered the Seahawks president's job to former Colts and Buccaneers coach Tony Dungy last month. The offer came soon after the Seahawks forced Tim Ruskell to resign as president and general manager Dec. 3. "That's not to defend myself with the Rooney Rule. Tony would have made a heck of a president. That was the first call I made," said Leiweke, who has been doing the interviews for the team's coach, GM and president vacancies on behalf of team owner Paul Allen.

Leiweke said Dungy considered the offer for a night before telling him no thanks.

The league's Rooney Rule requires interviews with minority candidates. The rule, which was introduced after the 2002 season and became mandatory a year later, applies to the hiring of head coaches and senior football executives. Leiweke said his interview with Vikings defensive coordinator Leslie Frazier on Saturday in Minnesota lasted four hours — then they watched the Eagles-Cowboys playoff game together that night. Leiweke cited it as further proof he adhered to the league's minority hiring initiative.

"I went to see Leslie and I saw him in good faith," Leiweke said, firmly. "When I went to Minnesota, I was not sure we would get it done with Pete. There were significant issues."

Carroll joined Leiweke in saying reports he had a preliminary deal with the Seahawks as early as Friday were wrong. □



*NHL Roundup*

# Brodeur, Devils beat Rangers 1-0 in shootout

NEW YORK (AP) — Patrik Elias scored the only goal of a shootout and Martin Brodeur earned his fourth shutout in the last 10 games as the New Jersey Devils beat the New York Rangers 1-0 in the NHL on Tuesday.

Elias connected in the fourth round, snapping a shot past Henrik Lundqvist's glove. With the shutout, Brodeur extended his NHL record to 107, making 51 saves through overtime and four more in the shootout.

Lundqvist stopped 45 through overtime to earn his second shutout this season.

## Sharks 3, Coyotes 1

At Glendale, Arizona, Patrick Marleau scored two more goals to stay ahead of the NHL with 31 and added an assist to help lead San Jose past slumping Phoenix.

Dany Heatley scored his 27th goal and Joe Thornton added his league-leading 49th assist for the Sharks, who won their second straight and third in a row over the Coyotes.

The Coyotes, which had pulled within three points of the Sharks for the Pacific Division lead two weeks ago lost for the fifth time in six games (1-3-2) to fall 10 points behind San Jose. Phoenix has lost three straight for the first time this season.

At Atlanta, Ilya Kovalchuk had a goal and two assists as Atlanta got its first regulation victory in 21 games.

The Thrashers, who had lost 11 of their previous 12, were coming off an embarrassing 8-1 home loss to Southeast Division rival Washington on Saturday.

Atlanta goaltender Ondrej Pavelec made 30 saves and the Thrashers held Ottawa to 0 for on power plays.

Already without captain Daniel Alfredsson, who's recovering from a separated shoulder, the Senators played

their second straight game without defenseman Filip Kuba (upper body) and third straight without Milan Michalek (upper body). Centers Jason Spezza (knee) and Jesse Winchester (knee) are out indefinitely.

## Lightning 7, Capitals 4

At Tampa, Florida, Martin St. Louis scored the go-ahead goal as Tampa Bay ended a 12-game losing streak to Washington.

After the Lightning blew a three-goal lead, St. Louis' 250th career goal put Tampa Bay up 5-4 lead with 2:32 left in the second. The right wing extended his point streak to 11 games (11 assists, 17 points). Steven Stamkos had a pair of power-play goals as the Lightning took a 4-1 first-period lead. Vincent Lecavalier, Stephane Veilleux, Kurtis Foster and Jeff Halpern had the other Lightning goals. St. Louis added two assists.

Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin and Tampa Bay's Steve Downie had a confrontation late in the third, but Washington right wing Matt Bradley skated in front of Ovechkin and fought Downie.

## Islanders 6, Red Wings 0

At Uniondale, New York, Rob Schremp posted his first two-goal game in the NHL, and Dwayne Roloson earned perhaps the easiest shutout of his career.

Not even hot goalie Jimmy Howard, who earned three wins out West before the Red Wings reached Long Island to conclude a five-game trip, could bail out the defending Western Conference champions. Detroit is below the playoff cutoff and is in danger of missing the postseason for the first time since 1990.

Matt Moulson started the scoring for New York just 1:11 in, and Schremp made it 2-0



**New Jersey Devils' Patrik Elias scores past New York Rangers goalie Henrik Lundqvist in the shootout during an NHL hockey game at Madison Square Garden in New York on Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010. The Devils won 1-0.**

*Associated Press*

before the first period ended. A blatant giveaway in front by defenseman Brad Stuart set up Schremp for his second of the night, and Mark Streit beat Howard's replacement, Chris Osgood during a late second-period power play to push the lead to 4-0.

Kyle Okposo scored his 10th goal 9:22 into the third, and defenseman Bruno Gervais closed the onslaught with 3:08 remaining to make it 6-0 for the Islanders, who have won four of five.

At Philadelphia, Simon Gagne, Darroll Powe and Ian Laperriere each had a goal and an assist to help Philadelphia win its fourth straight game and send Dallas to its eighth straight road loss.

Scott Hartnell, Kimmo Timonen, and Claude Giroux also scored goals, and Matt Carle had two assists for the Flyers who are 8-1-1 in their last ten games.

Steve Ott scored twice and James Neal added the other goal for the Stars, who last won on the road at San Jose on Dec. 11 in a 3-2 shootout. Philadelphia's Michael Leighton made 27 saves. Leighton has started 10 straight games and has gone 8-0-1.

At Toronto, Patrick Dwyer scored with less than five minutes remaining as Carolina downed Toronto.

Eric Staal, Brandon Sutter and Ray Whitney also scored for Carolina, which won on the road for the fourth time in 22 games.

Lee Stempniak and Nikolai Kulemin scored for Toronto,

which has lost four straight.

At St. Louis, Jay McClement had a goal and assist in the first period to help St. Louis beat Columbus and end a five-game home losing streak.

The Blues took a 3-0 lead on nine shots against Mathieu Garon, who was benched in favor of Steve Mason after one period. B.J. Crombeen and Alex Steen also scored in the opening period for St. Louis, which has won two straight under interim coach Davis Payne and ended Columbus' first three-game winning streak since mid-November.

Fedor Tyutin scored in the second period for the Blue Jackets, who have lost 14 of 17 on the road but had won their previous two including Garon's second shutout of the season Sunday at Dallas. Columbus outscored opponents 9-4 during its

winning streak.

At Edmonton, Alberta, Ryan Jones had a goal and two assists to help Nashville beat struggling Edmonton.

Shea Weber, Marcel Goc, Patric Hornqvist and J.P. Dumont also scored for the Predators, who won for the second night in a row and have won six of eight.

J.F. Jacques, Ryan Potulny and Dustin Penner replied for the Oilers, who have lost five straight and 12 of their last 13.

**In other NHL games it was, New Jersey 1, N.Y. Rangers 0, SO; Carolina 4, Toronto 2; N.Y. Islanders 6, Detroit 0; Philadelphia 6, Dallas 3; Atlanta 6, Ottawa 1; Tampa Bay 7, Washington 4; St. Louis 4, Columbus 1; Nashville 5, Edmonton 3; and San Jose 3, Phoenix 1.**

## STEROID ERA

### Continued from Page 12

In November, the South African sports ministry said Semenya would be able to keep her gold medal from the worlds.

Besides the international intrigue created by the gender test, the case also entangled the president of the South African athletics federation, Leonard Chuene. In September, Chuene admitted he lied about his knowledge of gender tests performed on Semenya in South Africa before the world championships. He has since been suspended.

In an article published in November in British newspaper The Guardian, Semenya said she isn't comfortable with the fame she has acquired since the worlds.

"People want to stare at me now. They want to touch me," Semenya said. "I'm supposed to be famous but I don't think I like it so much."

The International Olympic Committee is organizing a medical symposium in Miami Beach, Florida, next week to draw up guidelines for dealing with "ambiguous" gender cases in sports in the wake of the Semenya controversy.



## NBA Roundup

## Duncan, Parker lead Spurs over Lakers 105-85

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Tim Duncan had 25 points and 13 rebounds as the San Antonio Spurs showed they can still hang with their Western Conference rivals in a 105-85 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers on Tuesday.

Tony Parker scored 22 as the Spurs got their biggest victory this season.

Kobe Bryant had another off game, scoring 16 points. He again wore a thick splint over his broken right index finger and did not play in the fourth quarter because of back spasms. Lakers coach Phil Jackson said Bryant was probable for Wednesday's game in Dallas.

Andrew Bynum scored 23 points and Ron Artest had 13 for the Lakers, who have lost three of four.

**Grizzlies 104, Clippers 102**

At Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay and Marc Gasol each scored 24 points and Zach Randolph added 20 as Memphis snapped Los Angeles' four-game winning streak.

The Grizzlies overcame Baron Davis' triple-double, an 18-point deficit and a 36-minute delay caused by a water line break in the fire sprinkler system at FedExForum for their sixth straight home win.

Davis had 27 points, 12 rebounds and 12 assists for the Clippers, who played without starting center Chris Kaman because of a back injury. Starting forward Marcus Camby missed the second half with a stomach virus. Kaman's replacement, DeAndre Jordan, had a season-high 23 points.

**Pistons 99, Wizards 90**

At Washington, Charlie Villanueva had 23 points and nine rebounds as Detroit ended a 13-game losing streak by beating Washington.

Richard Hamilton and Rodney Stuckey each scored 19 for the Pistons, who hadn't enjoyed a victory in a month: They beat Golden State on Dec. 12.

Detroit lost by 33 points at Chicago on Monday night, and a defeat against Washington would have tied the longest single-season losing streak in franchise history.

Antawn Jamison led the Wizards with 31 points and 10 rebounds, while Randy Foye — who took over at point guard when Gilbert Arenas was suspended indefinitely by the NBA — had 20 points and 10 assists.

At Charlotte, North Carolina, Stephen Jackson scored 16 of his career-high 43 points in the fourth quarter as Charlotte clamped down on defense after halftime to rally past Houston.

Surpassing his previous best scoring night of 42 set nearly six years ago with Atlanta, Jackson shot 15 of 22 and made 10-of-11 free throws while adding eight rebounds. Making up for a subpar night from Gerald Wallace, Jackson keyed Charlotte's comeback from a 13-point, second-quarter deficit.

Boris Diaw added 19 points and seven rebounds, including the clinching three-point play with 50 seconds left.

Trevor Ariza scored 19 points and Luis Scola added 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Rockets, who had won seven straight against Charlotte.

**Magic 109, Kings 88**

At Sacramento, California, Dwight Howard had 30 points and 16 rebounds as Orlando used a big run to open the fourth quarter and beat Sacramento.

Ryan Anderson started the 18-4 run with a 3-pointer on the opening possession

of the quarter to give the Magic a 79-78 lead. Orlando just built on it from there, holding Sacramento to just one field goal in the first 7:14 of the period.

Mickael Pietrus added 18 points and 10 rebounds, Anderson scored 12 and former Kings point guard Jason Williams had 12 points and six assists.

Tyreke Evans scored 18 points and Beno Udrih added 15 for Sacramento, which was outscored 31-10 in the fourth quarter.

**In other NBA games it was, Charlotte 102, Houston 94; Detroit 99, Washington 90; Memphis 104, L.A. Clippers 102; San Antonio 105, L.A. Lakers 85; and Orlando 109, Sacramento 88.** □



Los Angeles Lakers' Lamar Odom, rear, and San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan compete for a loose ball during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, in San Antonio. San Antonio won 105-85.

Associated Press

## No. 1 pick Griffin to have season-ending surgery

By GREG BEACHAM  
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — Blake Griffin's first season with the Los Angeles Clippers is over before it even began.

Griffin will have surgery on his broken left kneecap, keeping the No. 1 draft pick out for at least more four months, the eternally star-crossed Clippers announced in a statement Wednesday. Griffin hasn't played a regular-season game yet for the Clippers after injuring his kneecap in their final preseason game Oct. 23, wincing in pain as he landed after a dunk. After resting the stress fracture for several weeks, the former Oklahoma star recently increased his workload in rehabilitation by running on an anti-gravity treadmill.

The power forward developed pain in his knee, and an examination Tuesday revealed his recovery wasn't progressing properly. The Clippers said more details would be announced soon.

After a loss in Memphis on

Tuesday, the Clippers will play at New Orleans on Wednesday night before returning to Los Angeles for a road game against the Lakers on Friday. The top pick hasn't been such an honor in recent NBA drafts. Griffin is the second No. 1 selection in the past three years to miss his entire first season with an injury.

Greg Oden, the Ohio State center chosen by the Portland Trail Blazers in 2007, had microfracture surgery on his right knee three months after the draft. Last month, Oden also broke his left kneecap and was lost for the rest of this season.

Griffin was the consensus college player of the year with 22.7 points and an NCAA-best 14.4 rebounds per game last season for the Sooners, and the Clippers eagerly chose him in last June's draft.

Griffin averaged 13.7 points and 8.1 rebounds during the preseason, and coach Mike Dunleavy and his new teammates all expected him to be a major part of their



In this Oct. 23, 2009 photo, Los Angeles Clippers forward Blake Griffin (32) makes his way up court in the first half of a NBA preseason basketball game against New Orleans Hornets, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

comeback season. Instead, Griffin has never been fully healthy in Los Angeles, even straining his right shoulder during summer league play in Las Vegas.

Griffin's woes sadly can't be surprising to fans of a team with just two winning seasons in the last 30 years and just one playoff series victory since moving to town in 1984. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### Haitian athletes anxiously await word on relatives

**MICHAEL MAROT**

**AP Sports Writer**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** —

Indianapolis Colts receiver Pierre Garcon waited for word as his mother frantically tried to reach relatives in Haiti on Wednesday.

Three days before what is expected to be his first career NFL playoff game, Garcon was without his trademark smile.

“Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews. We still have not heard much from them, and my mom is still trying to call them,” Garcon said. “I’m keeping in contact with my mom. It’s tough to get in touch with people down there because of the phone lines.”

Garcon and other athletes of Haitian descent were devastated by the powerful earthquake that struck the capital of Port-au-Prince on Tuesday and is feared to have killed thousands — perhaps more than 100,000.

“I heard from my father and got an e-mail he was OK. That was a relief,” Philadelphia 76ers center Samuel



**FILE** - In this Dec. 6, 2009, file photo, Indianapolis Colts wide receiver Pierre Garcon (85), left, looks on during the first half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans in Indianapolis. Garcon walked into the team’s complex on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 2010, with a heavy heart. The fun-loving receiver’s trademark smile was deeply concerned after Haiti’s devastating earthquake and the fate of “countless” relatives who live near the capital city of Port-Au-Prince; and Sacramento Kings center Spencer Hawes, right, and Philadelphia 76ers Samuel Dalembert, left, battle for position under the basket during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Sacramento, Calif., Wednesday, Dec. 30, 2009.

Dalembert said. “There are so many other people I don’t know about, relatives and friends. I’m getting new information all the time. It’s just really hard.”

The 76ers planned a moment of silence and the organization is in the process of assembling funds, team spokesman Mike



Preston said.

“It’s kind of hard to fathom a situation like this because those people didn’t do anything wrong,” Dalembert said. “It’s so hard to watch the TV. I feel helpless.”

The parents of WBC welterweight champion Andre Berto are from Haiti,

and he has many relatives on the island.

“Like many other Haitian-Americans, my family and I are working to reach my loved ones,” Berto said. “From what we have learned to this point, some of my family members are still missing, and we have already been informed that members of my family have passed away in the earthquake.”

Berto fought for Haiti at the 2004 Athens Olympics after barely missing the U.S. team. He’s scheduled to face Sugar Shane Mosley on Jan. 30 in Las Vegas in the biggest bout of the undefeated fighter’s pro career, but his training was interrupted by the tragedy. Berto (25-0, 19 KOs) has been heavily involved in charity work and relief efforts in Haiti for years. He’s working on another charity initiative to help Haiti’s recovery from his training camp in Winter Haven, Florida.

On his Twitter account, Berto wrote: “Haiti is the first black republic since 1804. Haitians are strong, powerful, proudful

people but this a tough blow (to) endure,” and “My heart bleeds for my people.”

Garcon was a second-year Colts player who was born in Carmel, New York and attended high school in Florida. But his parents immigrated to the United States from Haiti and most of his relatives still live there. Garcon said there are too many to count.

Last season, Garcon went back to Haiti for his grandmother’s funeral, and he planned to return in April with his charitable organization, the Pierre Garcon Foundation.

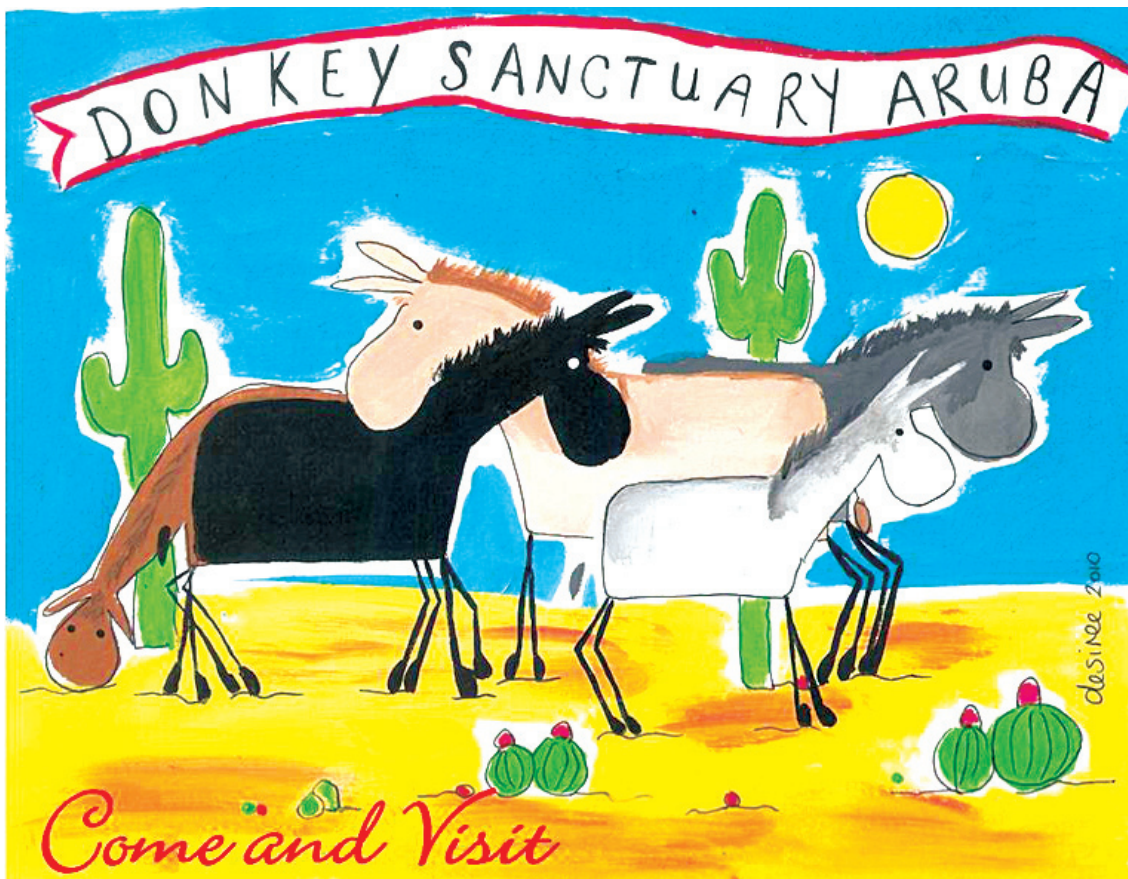
But when the 7.0-magnitude quake struck, devastating one of the world’s poorest nations, Garcon changed the plan. Instead of waiting until spring, Garcon jumped onto his Twitter account and started asking fans for help. At one point, he tweeted: “We need the US military as soon as possible in Haiti. We need the 4 million Haitian that live out side of Haiti to Act now, we need da world!”

As he prepares for Saturday’s playoff game against Baltimore, Garcon intends to use the NFL’s stage as a pulpit to seek more assistance in the recovery effort.

“That (Twitter) is how we got the pictures out, the word out; that’s been really helpful,” Garcon said. “Spreading the word and helping others is really what it’s all about, and this is the best situation to do that now.”

Coach Jim Caldwell and teammates offered their support, help and prayers for Garcon, who was coming off a breakout season and was expected to play on Saturday despite missing the last two games with a bruised hand.

“It’s hard, not knowing what’s going to happen,” he said. “The rebuilding process is going to take forever.” □





## Aruba's Plan of Action: "Help Haiti Red Cross"



ORANJESTAD - During a meeting at the Prime Minister's office last evening, the Prime Minister of Aruba, Mr. Mike Eman, the Secretary of the Council of Ministers, Ms. Nicole Hoevertsz, the director of the Fire Department,

Mr. Jaime Donata and the president of Red Cross Aruba, have made a plan of action to assist Haiti. All banks in Aruba are requested to assist in this plan of action by opening an account named "Help Haiti Red Cross" as soon as

possible, so that donations can be collected for the disaster relief efforts in Haiti. The collected funds in Aruba will be sent via the Red Cross Aruba branch, in coordination with the Netherlands Red Cross, to the international Red



## Aruba-bound aircraft diverts to Ireland after 44-year-old Dutch passenger makes bomb threats

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DUBLIN, Ireland — Irish police say they have arrested a 44-year-old Dutch man who claimed he had planted a bomb on a charter aircraft, leading the pilot to divert to Ireland.

The Arkefly aircraft was carrying 224 passengers and 11 crew members from its Amsterdam base to the Caribbean resort island of Aruba when its pilot landed Wednesday at Shannon Airport in western Ireland. The pilot told Shannon air controllers the man was verbally threatening and scaring other passengers. Arkefly said the man was "unstable and aggressive" and shouted out several bomb threats.

Police said they were obliged to search the aircraft because of the man's claims but they found nothing suspicious.

The flight is expected to continue to Aruba without the arrested man later Wednesday. □



Cross organization in charge of the disaster relief efforts in Haiti. All those who are willing and able to contribute to the disaster relief efforts are requested to deposit their funds for this purpose at their banks. The Red Cross of Aruba will continue to inform Aruba about about developments in Haiti as well as the progress made in this plan of action. All financial help is very much needed and appreciated. Reported to us by Mr. Greg Peterson, President Red Cross Aruba. Please make donations to "Help Haiti Red Cross":  
**Aruba Bank: Nr.12012010**  
**CMB: Nr. 60646004 RBTT:**  
**Nr.4425510 Banco di Caribe:**  
**Nr. 81009401** □



# Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

## Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

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"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

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12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com).

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Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.

*With negative growth but better than anticipated*

## Aruba Airport Authority N.V. reports year end 2009 traffic results



**ORANJESTAD** - With the closing of 2009, International Air Transport Association (IATA) reports that the air service conditions are improving but substantial risks remain. Airlines had substantial cuts made in their capacity inventory to match demand which caused load factors (occupied seats onboard aircraft) to increase but not yields. IATA forecasts that the airline industry will loose

US\$ 11 billion which is up 31% compared to the 2008 loss. The industry remains very volatile. Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) 2009 results are reflective of the overall industry reports as both commercial revenue generating passengers (RGP) and air service capacity have decreased year over year but not at anticipated substantial levels.

Analyzing fourth quarter

2009, RGP figures for commercial passengers and flights were down by -1.4% and -3.7% respectively compared fourth quarter 2008. The following graph illustrates the monthly performance 2009 compared to 2008 for commercial traffic.

The European and the Latin American market showed the sharpest decrease in RGP during the month of December 2009 with -28.2% and -25.5% respectively. Part of the steep decline from Europe were cruise turn around operations from the UK and Spain and the winter charter from Italy all operating one season only. In Latin America the decline was strongest in Venezuela where the lack of holiday charter operations and stricter credit card and US dollar regulations have further jeopardized traffic to

Aruba. The North American and the Antillean market did show positive increases during December with 3.6% and 1.8% respectively. Despite the difficult economic times, AAA N.V. welcomed VING winter charter flights from Sweden in November and Air Tran Airways weekly scheduled service from Atlanta, Georgia in December with water canon salutes. Year end 2009, RGP figures for commercial passengers and flights were down by -3.4% and -1.5% respectively compared to 2008. The following graph illustrates the year end figures from the different key markets.

'After a relatively stable July - November period, December couldn't maintain the positive trend. It is good to know, however, that the North American market is holding

its own and still growing compared to 2008. In terms of scheduled services, it was mainly the Venezuelan market that performed much less in December' said Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA. 'It's all about retention of service. We cannot emphasize this enough. Our strategies to focus on air service retention; support our tourism partners in stimulation of demand and continue our diversification efforts during an extremely difficult and unpredictable year, have us looking back with satisfaction and we are still pleased with our year end results. Having said this, we will continue with these strategies, work closely with our tourism partners and have increased our marketing budget to ensure our presence and obtain our 2010 goals. □





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*Aruba expects the number of Dutch visitors to increase this year*

# Crime Task Force to meet Thursday

UTRECHT--With snowy conditions outside, the warm en colourful Caribbean Village at the Vakantiebeurs was a welcome break for visitors. The Vakantiebeurs, the largest vacation fair in the Netherlands and Europe, kicked off in Utrecht on Tuesday and the Windward Islands were present, as usual, for this six-day event. "It is one of the main events to promote St. Maarten in the Netherlands," said William Bell, marketing assistant of the St. Maarten Tourist Bureau. "So far it is going pretty well. We already had our first meetings with interested parties," said Bell, who attended the fair for the first time. The Vakantiebeurs attracted some 135,000 visitors last year.

Even though St. Maarten doesn't get as many Dutch tourists as Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao, the Netherlands is an important market for St. Maarten. "We will have to do everything to keep the doors open and to get the people's interest," said Bell, adding that he was glad St. Maarten's tourist bureau in the Netherlands Interreps was back in the game after their contract had been extended. This year and for the first time Paul Boetekees of Holland House decided to personally come to the Vakantiebeurs. "Holland House is doing very well, but it is important to stay sharp and to keep the promotion going." Boetekees prepared new flyers, depicting ten reasons why to come to St. Maarten. Like Bell, Boetekees was glad with the promotional efforts of Interreps. "It is good that we have serious representation in the Netherlands," he said. Holland House made available a seven-day stay at

the hotel as a prize in a raffle that Interreps organized among travel agents. Sonesta Great Bay Hotel and Sonesta Maho Resort and Divi Little Bay also had representatives at the St. Maarten booth. Brochures were on display of activities such as the Heineken Regatta, several water sports and day trips. Rolando Lopes and Charles Lindo of the St. Eustatius Tourism Development Foundation and their colleague Glenn Holm of the Saba Tourist Bureau only arrived at the Vakantiebeurs Tuesday morning. Their flight on KLM had been stranded on St. Maarten Sunday and they could only leave on Monday. Nevertheless, they immediately kicked off their work at the Vakantiebeurs after getting off the airplane.

## Constitutional status

The Dutch market is becoming increasingly important for St. Eustatius and Saba, especially with their future constitutional status as part of the Netherlands. "We are seeing a marked increase," said Lopes, who explained that tourism figures from the Netherlands in 2009 were up two per cent compared to the previous year. St. Eustatius has added the words "BES island" to its posters displayed at the Vakantiebeurs to indicate its future constitutional status. "We are expecting more and more visitors from the Netherlands and we want to get the Dutch people more familiarised with our product. We are saying, 'We are becoming part of you, so you better get to know us,'" said Lindo.

St. Eustatius expects a five per cent increase in Dutch tourists this year. But the island would need more hotel rooms to accommodate that

increase. "Our first concern is hotel rooms," said Lopes. St. Eustatius hopes to work with Saba and Bonaire on joint promotion as BES islands. Saba too is becoming increasingly popular in the Netherlands, said Glenn Holm. "Dutch tourists are not only coming to Saba through the Vakantiebeurs, but also because of the constitutional change. We will become the smallest overseas part of the Netherlands with the highest point," he said. Most visitors to Saba come from the US, but the Dutch market is increasing. Some 65 per cent of tourists from Europe hail from the Netherlands. Saba is attractive to Dutch tourists because of its eco-tourism, hiking, diving, the friendly nature of the people and the absence of crime, said Holm.

## French St. Martin

French St. Martin this year has a separate booth at the Vakantiebeurs. Last year it shared a booth with Dutch St. Maarten. The reason for that is mostly budgetary, explained Olivier Louis, who is responsible for St. Martin at the French Tourist Office in Paris. St. Martin launched its new brown and yellow design in September last year. The Vakantiebeurs is just one of the travel shows that the island is attending in Europe. Louis said Dutch tourist figures have gone down in St. Martin. "We have lost quite a bit," he said. He said the Dutch side was promoted heavier in the Netherlands through more and cheaper packages. Since last year, St. Martin has been focusing more on the French, US and Canadian market, as well as the Caribbean region. Still, St. Martin has a lot to

offer for Dutch tourists. "We have eco-tourism. We are protecting our nature. Dutch people like that. Plus the sailing is very good," said Louis, who would like to see more cooperation between the Dutch and French side to "work on the Dutch market together."

## Antigua & Barbuda

Antigua & Barbuda attended the Vakantiebeurs for the fourth year. "The Netherlands is a market that we want to develop," said Cherrie Osborne of the Antigua & Barbuda Tourism Authority. Though generally unknown, the twin-island nation has potential in the Netherlands. "We are two destinations in one. Antigua has beaches, history and nightlife, while Barbuda has diving, nature, bird watching and 120 shipwrecks," said Osborne. As traditional popular destinations for Dutch tourists, Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao were prominently present at the Vakantiebeurs. Curaçao as the most popular exotic destination of Dutch tourists had the largest booth of 90m2 at the fair. Curaçao received about 125,000 tourists from the Netherlands last year and the island wants to further increase this figure by 7 to 9 per cent this year, said Edward Soares, Marketing Director Europe of the Curaçao Tourist Board. Eighteen participants, most from the hotel sector, shared Curaçao's booth, double the number of last year.

## Aruba

Aruba's stand was smaller, with 48m2 and eight hotel representatives. Aruba gets some 42,000 tourists from the Netherlands and managed to realise a one per cent growth last year. "We are not unhappy



**Humphrey Vrolijk**

with that, considering the economic crisis," said Humphrey Vrolijk, Area Director Europe of the Aruba Tourism Authority. Aruba expected the number of Dutch visitors to increase this year, especially with flights of KLM returning to the island shortly.

Bonaire didn't do that well in 2009 when compared to 2008, which was a record year where it came to visitor numbers from the Netherlands. "We lost a fraction, which is not too bad when considering that other islands lost more," said Roger Davids, Regional Director Europe of the Tourism Corporation Bonaire.

Bonaire, just like Saba and St. Eustatius, has noticed an increased interest from the Netherlands because of its future constitutional status. "Bonaire as part of the Netherlands radiates positivism and confidence," said Davids. Tourism from Europe to Bonaire has doubled since 2000. Davids on Tuesday presented this year's Pink Egg, a promotional award, to the Dutch dive magazine Duiken.

Also present at the Vakantiebeurs were the Dominican Republic, Jamaica, Suriname and various large tour operators that are specialised in selling the Caribbean in the Netherlands. □



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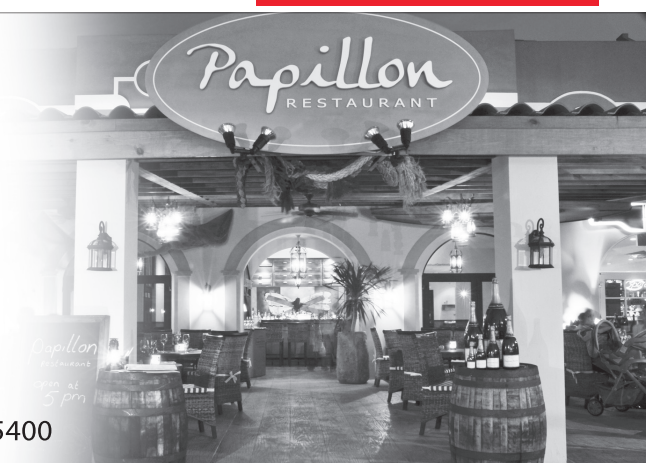
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# Venezuela and the Netherlands

ORANJESTAD - The government of the Netherlands recently granted the US military use of its islands in the Caribbean, with the excuse that this is to help in the "war against drugs". In reality, this is a direct threat to the Chavez government in Venezuela.

In the Dutch media articles have appeared about the "war-mongering" president of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, who is "preparing a war against Colombia". Now Chávez has accused the Netherlands of supporting aggression against Venezuela, because the Netherlands has given permission to the American armed forces to use the military bases on the Dutch Caribbean islands of Aruba and Curaçao[1].

In the media Hugo Chávez, as always, has been presented like some "crazy populist", and of course the "civilised Netherlands" are presented as being totally innocent.

Later Maxime Verhagen, the Dutch minister of foreign affairs, said the American

military were on Aruba and Curaçao, as part of the "war against drugs". He remains silent about what is really happening on Aruba and Curaçao.

Authors such as Noam Chomsky and Eva Golinger have pointed out in different articles that the so-called "war against drugs" has nothing to do with any battle against drug smuggling, but has been used for other causes such as fighting against guerrilla movements and the spying of other countries. Since the start of the "war against drugs" there has only been more smuggling and consumption of drugs.

The fact that the Netherlands are participating in this is quite normal, because the Dutch government has a tradition of supporting American imperialism. After Britain the Netherlands are the biggest ally of the U.S. in Western Europe. The cabinet of Prime Minister Balkenende gave political support to the invasion of Iraq that was based completely

on lies. Now the Netherlands have troops in Afghanistan, officially to rebuild the country, but in practice to prop up the corrupt regime of Karzai.

The bases on Aruba and Curaçao

In 1999 the Netherlands and the U.S. signed an agreement for the establishment of Forward Operating Locations (FOLs). This meant that the American military could use air force bases on Aruba and Curaçao. While the bases were originally used for operations against drug smuggling and the Colombian guerrilla movement FARC, this changed with the election of George Bush. Venezuela was seen as a threat by then, because it was a beacon of hope for the poor and working people of Latin America. In 2002 there was a CIA-backed coup attempt against the democratically elected Hugo Chávez. Since then there have only been more intrigues against Venezuela.

In 2006 there was a big

military exercise by the U.S., Netherlands, Belgium, Great Britain, France and Canada in the Caribbean, named Joint Caribbean Lion 2006. This exercise was clearly a provocation against Venezuela. After criticisms by the Venezuelan government the then-minister of defence Henk Kamp and some right-wing MPs decided to accuse Chávez of "wanting to conquer the Antilles". This was based on false statements from the Venezuelan opposition, that stated Chávez claimed everything within 200 miles from the Venezuelan coast as Venezuelan territory, while in that speech Chávez clearly said "12", and not "200" miles.

Now there is a new conflict. This has everything to do with the recent militarization of Colombia and its seven military bases that have been given to American troops. Venezuela is not talking nonsense as the media keep claiming. Colombia's military spending now is 5% of its Gross Domestic Product. At the peak of her struggle against the FARC this was 2.5%.

Also the American Fourth Fleet has been stationed back in the Caribbean since 2008. This fleet was disbanded in 1950 after the end of WWII, but now it is back and close to the Venezuelan coast.

The Netherlands are now playing the role of junior partner of the U.S. in the Caribbean. Different spy planes have been detected above Venezuela. An American Boeing RC-135 has taken off at different times from Curaçao and has been detected over Venezuelan air

space.

It is no coincidence this is all happening after president Obama asked the Netherlands to keep their troops in Afghanistan for a longer period. A majority of the Dutch people is in favour of a withdrawal of the troops. Prolonging the mission would mean a big loss of popularity for the Dutch government parties. That is why the Dutch government is now trying to find other ways to support American imperialism.

The Socialist Party (SP) is the only party that has asked questions to the government about the intrigues in the Caribbean, and those questions have not been answered. The SP is also the only party against the prolongation of the agreement with the US. This is a start. It has to be made clear that the support to the intrigues of the U.S. and Colombia against Venezuela has to stop!

No support for the intrigues of the U.S. and Colombia!

The right of self-determination for Aruba and the Antilles! There is no self-determination as long as there are American bases on the islands! There is no real self-determination possible without socialism.

Close the American bases on Aruba and Curaçao!

[1] The Netherlands have two overseas areas in the Caribbean, Aruba and the Netherlands Antilles. The Antilles consist of Bonaire, Curaçao, Sint Maarten, Sint Eustatius and Saba. Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao (the so-called ABC-islands) lie between 15 and 50 miles off the Venezuelan coast. □

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*At The Westin Resort, Aruba*

## Spectacular pool deck reception for Delta/Northwest group



**PALM BEACH** - This week, a group of several hundred top performers from the call centers of Delta and Northwest Airlines are here on the island at the Westin Resort, Aruba as part of an incentive reward trip.

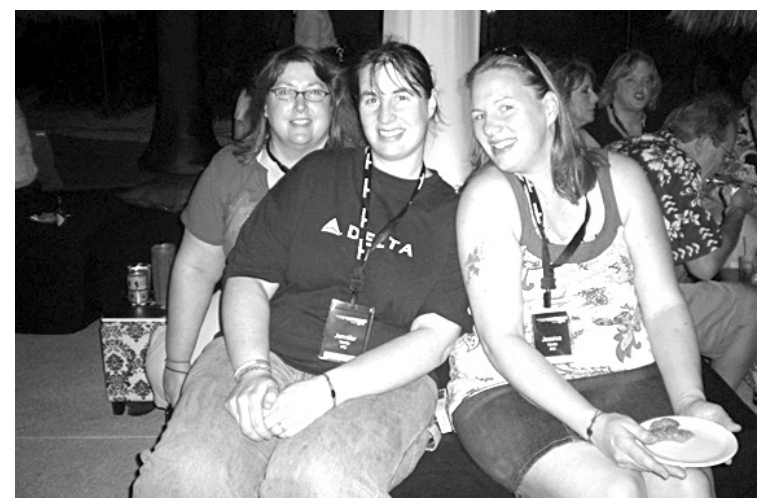
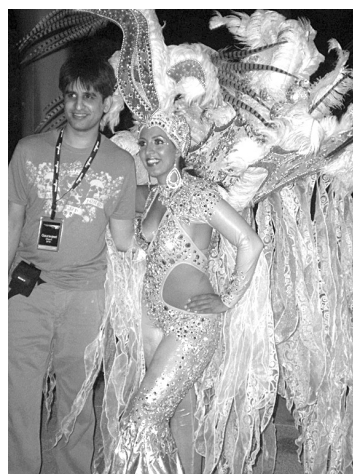
On Monday evening, a glittering display of Aruban hospitality and culture was enjoyed by all during a poolside cocktail welcome reception, themed "magic in the mix." Guests experienced a taste of the magic of Aruba's Carnival, with performances by an authentic island brass band, dancers in breathtaking costumes of feathers and



sequins, salsa dancers, a live band with an elevated stage set up over the pool, and Aruba's champion Barracuda synchronized swimmers. Westin's culinary team delighted the appetites of guests with hors d'oeuvres

like Tandoori chicken kebabs, Caribbean paella, fresh melon and prosciutto, and carved flat iron steak.

The finale of the evening was a spectacular fireworks display that guests all along the Palm Beach hotel strip enjoyed. □





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## \*\*\*HUMAN HINTS\*\*\*

### Cut to the Chase

Personal development can be filled with so much meaningless fluff. It is easy enough to toss out catchy phrases, but what can we actually do to improve our selves and our lives? What actions can we take in every moment of our lives, that will back up the ideas we all claim to live by? Lets get right to it.

Change your perspective on your life. Think about your life as abundant and manageable. Define where you want to go and take physical action to get there. You define where you want to go, then get there by taking action with conscious intent. Be patient. Expect it to take longer than you think, and expect your path to go in

surprise directions. Go with the uncontrollable surprises.

Take directed physical action toward your goal. If we just read and think about things, the knowledge is limited to our mind. We must put our knowledge into practice in our physical lives. If we take purposeful physical action with the conscious intent of reaching a specific destination, we facilitate the manifestation into three dimensions. Action manifests Thought.

If you feel lost and you don't know where you're going, don't forget that you define the destination.

It will help to clearly define what is important to you and what your long and short-term

goals are. List and prioritize what you value. Kids, career, fun, excitement, rest, etc. Work with the items on your list. Consider the time frame and what the situation allows. Create a rough plan that could possibly lead you to fulfill all the things that are important to you.

For example, you must consider your kids first, but while you're raising them, you can be setting yourself up to do whatever you want when they leave home. Balance your priorities from moment to moment. Your long-term overall goals will be your foundation. They can be broken up into categories and sub-categories, until you have specific action to take every day.

Once you're more clear

about what you want and what's important to you now and in the future, come up with actions that will lead you closer to your goals. Start big and general, then get smaller and more specific, until you have an action you can take each day that will lead you to your goal over time. At the end of each day, you can think of whatever you accomplished that brought you closer to your self-defined long-term goals. That way you won't be able to say you're not any closer each day. Each day, you will be at least one step, one action closer to your goals. With all that said, the entire point is to change our attitudes from victimized lack to empowered abundance. The attitude of abundance is already here, enveloping us in every moment, but we

don't see it because we don't have a fourth dimensional perspective. All we really have to do is change our perspective on our lives. When we see things differently, there is no need for patience because we know that whatever situation we're in, it is fully abundant. We just have to become aware of it.

Until Tomorrow...

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~Quentin Danziger  
Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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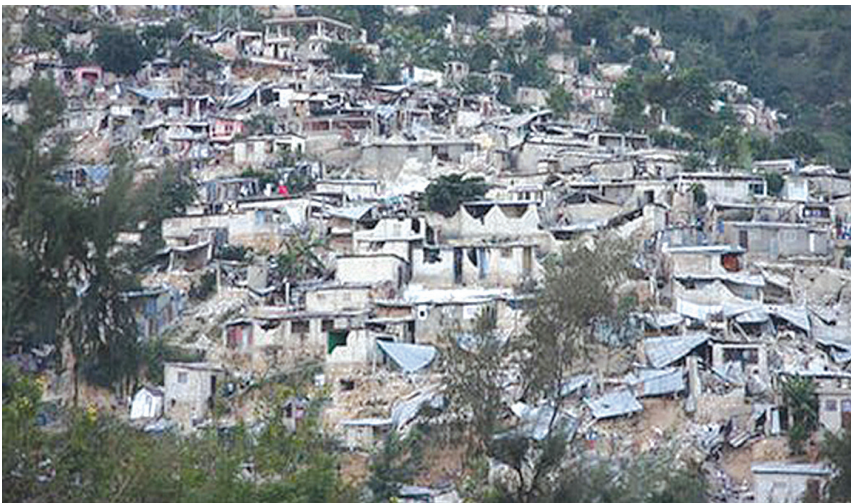


magnitude 7.0 earthquake that hit Haiti yesterday. Digicel's donation will be made to the NGOs (Non-Governmental



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Organizations) who are spearheading the relief efforts. With the impact of the earthquake resulting in considerable casualties and catastrophic damage to homes, buildings and infrastructure, Digicel is appealing to people and Governments across the world to support the people of Haiti in their time of need.



Digicel is also sending in a team of people to Haiti early on Wednesday to assist in whatever way possible with the relief efforts and to assess the impact on its communications infrastructure which incurred damage but is operational. Digicel is one of the largest companies in Haiti having launched its mobile services in 2006 -- and as the largest foreign direct investor in Haiti today, Digicel is proud to serve over two million customers in Haiti and to be a part of the fabric of Haitian society.

Colm Delves, Group CEO of Digicel, comments, "We are deeply upset and concerned at the news of the earthquake

in Haiti and want to do whatever we can to support the desperately needed relief efforts. We hope that governments around the world will also support the people of Haiti and immediately provide much needed aid to assist with the huge recovery efforts that are now needed.

"The people of Haiti welcomed us and made us their own when we launched there in 2006 and we are determined to be there for them in their time of need. Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Haiti and we would like to assure them that Digicel stands ready to assist in whatever way we can at this difficult time." □





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slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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theater-of-illusions theater, every seat is close to the stage. In his new illusion he calls; "PRESENT", a tall girl steps into a tiny box, elevated in-the-air, the box spins 360 degrees,

then the sections are taken away, one by one, until the girl vanishes completely... right before your eyes!

Then as if that isn't enough to run to your local optometrist, he re-assembles the box for the magicbabe to make a triumphant reappearance. It's an all new original illusion not seen anywhere else in the world.

I went back to see the show during rehearsals, and still couldn't figure out the secret.

Tourists and local fans will remember Steinfeld for past performances, in Aruba,



and on network television, Mr. Steinfeld recently authored "the Houdini Conspiracy", aka "Houdini Lives!", a collaborated work with new england mystery writer

Al Blanchard, he believes will be turned into a feature film.

The intimate Magic Live!® theater-of-illusions showroom is located just off the lobby of the Westin-Aruba in high-rise area, j.e. irausquin boulevard 77. Palm Beach, Aruba. Magic Live!® BOX

OFFICE tickets are located in main lobby. Purchase TICKETS AT THE DOOR.

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## IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show  
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)  
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld  
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm  
Tickets: at the door  
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults  
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## Haitians can seek information via Bureau of Foreign Affairs and Haitian Consul in Curacao

GREAT BAY, St. Maarten (GIS) – The Netherlands Antilles Bureau of Foreign Affairs and the Haitian Consulate in Willemstad, Curacao, are working together to assist Haitians in the Netherlands Antilles with getting information about their love ones in Haiti.

Specific telephone numbers have been assigned broken down into two groups where persons can call to register their name and provide information about family and love ones in Haiti.

The first group are Haitians residing in the Netherlands Antilles who have the Dutch nationality, can call the Bureau of Foreign Affairs in Curacao at 09-4613933 and ask for R. May or S. Nicolaas. Family members who also have the Dutch nationality can also call the aforementioned number between 7.30am to 5.00pm from Monday to Friday.

The persons name once they call will be noted along with their request pertaining to family members in Haiti who they are not able to reach.

Haitians who left the Netherlands Antilles and are in Haiti, and are not able to get back, this information should be relayed to the Bureau of Foreign Affairs.

The Dutch Embassy in the Dominican Republic is also involved in the coordination of a possible air or sealift out of Haiti of persons from the Netherlands Antilles who may now be stranded in Haiti due to the disaster. Haitian residents in the

Netherlands Antilles without the Dutch nationality should contact the Haitian Consulate Office in Willemstad, Curacao at the following number 09-4613434 and ask for Interim Consul General Renan Chery or Vice Consul Jean Claude Selime.

The reason this has been broken down into two groups is for efficiency and to have an effective process of registration and getting the information to the correct persons during this dire situation currently unfolding in Haiti.

Haiti suffered a devastating earthquake on Tuesday around 5.00pm having a 7.0 magnitude followed by a number of aftershocks measuring over magnitude 5.0.

The earthquake was centered about 10 miles west from Port-au-Prince and had a depth of approximately five miles. □

## Youth Health Care gets policy worker

~ Hyacinth welcomes new staffer ~

PHILIPSBURG--The Youth Health Care Department has received a boost with the addition of 25-year-old Miliane Bienvenue as its policy officer.

She joined the department on January 5. Health Commissioner Hyacinth Richardson, who said he helped recruit the new staff member, said he was happy with the addition to the department.

Richardson said in view of attaining Country St. Maarten he has embarked on a mission to attract local professionals, wherever they may be, to fill all available vacancies in government service as well as in the private sector.

He said it had always been one of his dreams, even before taking office, and now as a Commissioner he was following through with his commitment to the people. He said Bienvenue was an aspiring young lady, who will be an asset to the department.

After completing her elementary education, Bienvenue completed six years of 'Voorbereidend Wetenschappelijk Onderwijs' at Radulphus College. She finished her studies in Medicine at Rijksuniversiteit in Leiden, the Netherlands, in May 2009, after six and a half years and accumulated some valuable experience

during the seven months in an intensive care unit in the Netherlands.

The new policy officer's responsibilities will include working on the vaccination programme for school children and helping with the development of a screening programme for visual, hearing and growth development problems of the youth.

In a press release issued by Government Information Services (GIS), Bienvenue said she would also have an active role in the development of programmes concerning certain groups within the population of St. Maarten, such as elderly workers.

She hopes to use her knowledge to help make improvements in the health of the youth of St. Maarten, and also the health of other groups within the population.

She hopes to eventually specialize further in the field of medicine. Her mother, Eliane Thomas from Cole Bay, said she was very proud of her daughter, while her father Milton Bienvenue is proud of her accomplishments.

In the meantime, the Commissioner said he would continue to work diligently to try and bring young ambitious persons back to St. Maarten to assist in strengthening country St. Maarten. □

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# Dutch politician Wilders faces further prosecution

Netherlands daily newspaper De Volkskrant reported on January 12 that the Dutch public prosecutors' Office has brought additional charges against Geert Wilders, the leader of the populist Freedom Party in parliament. Last year, the Amsterdam court ruled that his statements regarding Muslims and Islam may constitute criminal offences and ordered the public prosecutors' office to prosecute Wilders for incitement to hatred and discrimination against

Muslims.

The prosecutors' office has now decided to add the charge of incitement to hatred against Moroccans and non-Western immigrants.

Haroon Raza, one of the lawyers who filed the original complaint against Mr Wilders, said he was "delighted" with the decision. "Mr Wilders is not just focussing on Muslims, but also on non-Western immigrants, in other words, people of colour".

The lawyer says the Public Prosecutors' Office now stands a better chance to secure a conviction: "Mr Wilders insists he is attacking Islam, not Muslims, but ethnicity is always about people. So you can't say: 'I didn't mean it like that'."

Wilders enraged Muslims worldwide with his film "Fitna" in 2008. He was banned from the UK out of concern that his presence would present controversy in Britain. □

## Reality check

Local aviation businessman Frank Arrindell expressing concern about St. Maarten's tourism economy in the months ahead on the front page of yesterday's edition may not have been what many people wanted to hear, but should serve as a wake-up call that the effects of the global crisis are still being felt. His conclusions based on less-than-impressive airplane load factors in the last two months are supported on page five of the same edition by hotel occupancy figures that were down 3.2 per cent for hotels and 0.1 per cent for timeshare in December compared to the same month in 2008, which already wasn't great.

The 60 per cent hotel occupancy mark was only reached during two months during the entire year 2009 compared to five the year before; three of the latter above 70 per cent. The Sonesta Maho and Great Bay resorts – two of the island's few major hotels – had already announced in the paper of last week Friday that their combined average occupancy was down to 58.6 per cent last month from 60 in December 2008 and 68.3 in 2007.

But it's not just about the number of passengers and occupancy rates. As the Maho Group pointed out, travellers are booking more and more at the last minute and at steep discounts, keeping average room rates lower than in previous years. What it all amounts to is a considerable reduction in spending by tourists, an estimated 10 to 15 per cent. Simply put: much less money is flowing into the local economy and the effects of that will

ultimately be felt by society as a whole. Not that "The Friendly Island" is alone in this by any means. Many destinations in the region are in fact reporting double-digit decreases in visitor numbers, some despite intensified marketing efforts with extra funding of which only a relatively small amount was made available locally by redirecting means of the Social Economic Initiative (SEI) programme financed by the Dutch Government.

But while many other islands don't depend entirely on tourism, it is St. Maarten/St. Martin's only economic pillar. There has been some talk of diversification, but with relatively high manufacturing cost, including salaries and energy tariffs, compared to many existing production centres, as well as other drawbacks such as a lack of raw materials, limited telecommunication capacity, a far-from-optimal education system, logistical issues and the small scale of the local market, actually doing so in a competitive manner would prove difficult at best.

For now it appears that drawing vacationers to its shores will remain the main source of income for the entire island, providing for the livelihood of practically everyone residing on it. Especially under the current circumstances, what's important is to "keep the eyes on the ball" in terms of promotion and marketing, but also the service to and treatment of the tourists who do come, because in the end it's all about visitor experience. □



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# Nuevas protestas en Perú amenazan a García en año preelectoral

LIMA (Reuters) - El presidente peruano, Alan García, comenzó el miércoles a enfrentar otra vez nuevos focos de protestas contra su gestión en demanda de mejoras sociales, en un año en que comenzará la campaña electoral de cara a los comicios generales del 2011.

Los indígenas amazónicos del país, que han cobrado peso en el último año, amenazaron en una conferencia de prensa con nuevas manifestaciones en rechazo de un reciente informe oficial que los responsabilizó de la muerte de 34 civiles y policías durante una dura protesta en junio del 2009.

Por su parte, los gremios de transporte de carga en los puertos y de en vías terrestres alistan un paro desde el 19 de enero para rechazar la privatización del sector y un alza del



Foto de archivo del presidente peruano, Alan García, durante las celebraciones del día de la independencia en Lima, jul 28 2009. García comenzó el miércoles a enfrentar otra vez nuevos focos de protestas contra su gestión en demanda de mejoras sociales, en un año en que comenzará la campaña electoral de cara a los comicios generales del 2011. REUTERS/Pilar Olivares

precio de los combustibles, protesta que podría dejar hasta 250 millones de dólares en pérdidas, según comerciantes locales.

García, cuya Gobierno tiene una aprobación de

sólo un 29 por ciento según una encuesta de diciembre, dijo la semana pasada que los apetitos políticos de sus adversarios provocarán este año una "crisis electoral", la cual afirma que superará

con "éxito", al igual que la turbulencia económica global. "No queremos otro enfrentamiento (...) el Gobierno ha declarado la guerra a los pueblos amazónicos, vamos a seguir

con nuestra resistencia", dijo el vicepresidente de la Asociación Interétnica de Desarrollo de la Selva Peruana, Saúl Puertas, en una rueda de prensa.

Los nativos amazónicos reclaman la derogatoria definitiva y la revisión de algunas leyes que permiten la inversión privada en sus territorios, ricos en recursos naturales como petróleo, gas y madera, y que el Gobierno de García busca impulsar.

La protesta del año pasado fue por ese motivo y García tuvo que derogar algunas normas para socavar el conflicto, el peor que ha afrontado el presidente en casi cuatro años de mandato. Para solucionar la crisis, el Gobierno instaló una mesa de diálogo en busca de concertar el tema del desarrollo de la Amazonía, pero los indígenas dicen que allí no fueron escuchados □

## Venezuela inicia racionamiento eléctrico en medio de confusión

CARACAS (Reuters) - Venezuela inició el miércoles un racionamiento de electricidad, en medio de una gran confusión entre la población, en que la mayoría no está informada de los horarios ni preparada para enfrentarlo.

Establecimientos comerciales, así como colegios y centros médicos esperaban mayor información sobre los horarios en los que será cortado el servicio para intentar establecer planes de contingencia, al tiempo que periódicos comparaban la situación con la que vivió Cuba hace años.

La medida también llevó a una reprogramación de eventos como la final de la serie nacional de Béisbol, el deporte bandera del país, mientras que algunas personas quedaron atrapadas en los ascensores y otros vieron interrumpidas súbitamente sus compras.

El Ministerio para la Energía Eléctrica informó el martes que se realizará un racionamiento de cuatro horas cada dos días,

hasta mayo, debido a la crisis que atraviesa el país. El Gobierno la atribuye a los efectos climáticos del fenómeno de El Niño y al aumento de la demanda.

Pero los adversarios del presidente Hugo Chávez y algunos expertos aseguran que las dificultades se deben al detrimento de la infraestructura del país debido a la falta de inversión, luego de que nacionalizara varias de las empresas de servicios públicos.

"No tenemos claro cómo va a ser esto, no nos dan razón en la empresa (de electricidad). Esto está de mal en peor, vamos a tener que reprogramar las citas porque sin luz no funcionan los equipos, hasta la central telefónica muere y se para el bombeo del agua", dijo Luzmila Cano, secretaria de un centro médico en Caracas.

Autoridades han alertado que se espera que la sequía se mantenga por unos cinco meses y que de no hacerse el racionamiento, el país podría entrar en un colapso eléctrico desde finales de febrero. □

## Bolivia busca nuevos mercados para exportar gas

LA PAZ (AP) - El presidente de la petrolera estatal boliviana Carlos Villegas dijo el miércoles que el reto para el país este año es de "concretar la apertura de nuevos mercados" y que por ello ya inició negociaciones con algunos países.

"El 2010, el gran reto es concretar la apertura de nuevos mercados estamos en pleno proceso y por razones de negociación no podemos señalar que mercados estamos tratando de dar apertura, pero en cuanto los tengamos lo informaremos", señaló Villegas en declaraciones a radio Erbol.

Bolivia tiene como a sus principales mercados a Brasil y Argentina y una pequeña fracción se mantiene para consumo nacional. Con Argentina se negocia la inclusión de una adenda al contrato de compra y venta de gas que se firmó con Bolivia en 2006.

"Los volúmenes de 7,7 millones de metros cúbicos día como máximo que se puede exportar a Argentina nosotros no queremos hacer modificaciones, ellos van a recibir esas bandas y de lo que se trata la adenda es que la diferencia de cambio de estación no sea significativa y tenga repercusiones sobre productores que están invirtiendo en el país", dijo Villegas. □



# Muertos y desaparecidos latinoamericanos en Haití

*Once soldados brasileños muertos por sismo Haití*

BRASILIA (AP) - El ejército de Brasil dijo el miércoles que 11 soldados brasileños murieron en el terremoto de Haití, mientras también se informó del fallecimiento de un gendarme argentino, y la desaparición de dos chilenas y un oficial uruguayo, de acuerdo con las primeras versiones sobre la situación de residentes latinoamericanos en esa nación caribeña.

También desde Brasilia se informó que la pediatra Zilda Arns murió en el desastre. Era coordinadora de la Pastoral de la Infancia, un organismo ligado a la Iglesia Católica, quien había visitado el país caribeño para impartir conferencias.

El presidente Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva envió sus condolencias a las familias de las víctimas brasileñas, en tanto el ministro de Defensa, Nelson Jobim, se trasladó de emergencia a Haití junto a los comandantes en jefe del ejército, general Enzo Martins Peri, y de la armada, almirante Julio Soares, Brasil encabeza la misión de paz de la ONU con 1.266 efectivos militares. En Buenos Aires, la Gendarmería Nacional (GN) informó que un gendarme (policía de frontera), integrante de la misión humanitaria de la ONU, falleció y lo identificó como Gustavo Gómez, 33 años, y que se encontraba en Haití desde abril del 2009.

GN destacó en un comunicado que esa fuerza cuenta con un contingente de 20 hombres, de los cuales 14 corresponden a la misión en la Misión de Paz de las Naciones Unidas, Minustah, y seis en la seguridad de la embajada argentina.

En Santiago de Chile, el coronel de la fuerza aérea Duncan Silva confirmó a radios locales que se encuentran desaparecidas



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las chilenas María Teresa Dowling, esposa del general Ricardo Toro, asignado a las fuerzas de paz en Haití, y Andrea Loi, colaboradora del Minustah.

María Teresa Dowling se encontraba al momento del sismo en el gimnasio del hotel Le Montana, que resultó totalmente destruido. En Montevideo, se informó que

el teniente coronel Gonzalo Martirené, del ejército uruguayo de la misión ONU, permanece desaparecido. Estaba destacado en el edificio central de ONU en Puerto Príncipe.

En Bogotá, la oficina de prensa de la policía nacional colombiana señaló temprano el miércoles que los 26 policías colombianos de la misión de

la ONU en Haití están vivos. Informó que la delegación colombiana se comunicó con Bogotá cerca de la medianoche para decir que estaban bien. En tanto, el gobierno venezolano informó del envío a Haití un equipo 50 personas, entre médicos, rescatistas y bomberos, además de provisiones de alimentos y medicinas. En Montevideo,

el Secretario General Iberoamericano, Enrique Iglesias, pidió a la comunidad internacional “una rápida presencia en Haití con toda la ayuda humanitaria posible”. Brasil anunció el envío urgente de 14 toneladas de alimentos como azúcar, leche en polvo, sardinas y carnes frías para ayudar a las víctimas. En México, Salvador Beltrán del Río, subsecretario para América Latina y El Caribe, dijo que el gobierno mexicano envió doctores, y equipos de rescatistas con perros adiestrados en búsqueda de personas.

La presidenta chilena Michelle Bachelet anunció el envío de un avión con ayuda médica, alimentos y lo que se requiera. El canciller cubano, Bruno Rodríguez indicó que dos cooperantes en Haití fueron sufrieron lesiones “muy leves” y que actualmente operan en aquella nación dos hospitales de campaña atendidos por cubanos.

Cientos de médicos y técnicos cubanos se desempeñan en la vecina nación en virtud de acuerdos tanto bilaterales como en el marco de la Alternativa Bolivariana para las Américas (ALBA), un acuerdo regional. Mientras explicó que se estudia en el envío de medicinas, alimentos y personal de salud adicionales desde Cuba. En La Paz, el Ministro de Defensa Walker San Miguel dijo que las autoridades bolivianas se contactarán con la ONU “para ver en que se puede ayudar aunque ya nuestro contingente esta allá para colaborar”.

Por otro lado, se informó que la embajada española en Puerto Príncipe fue “seriamente dañada”, aunque el embajador no resultó herido. Se calcula que la colonia española en Haití es de unas 100 personas.

## Colombia anuncia envío de ayuda humanitaria a Haití

BOGOTÁ (Reuters) - El presidente de Colombia, Álvaro Uribe, anunció el miércoles el envío a Haití de equipos de socorristas y ayuda humanitaria para asistir a las víctimas del sismo que devastó el martes a la empobrecida nación.

Miles de personas podrían haber muerto o estar atrapadas bajo los escombros en Puerto Príncipe, después del sismo de magnitud 7,0, el peor en Haití en más de 200 años de acuerdo con el Servicio Geológico de Estados Unidos.

“Deseo expresar nuestra tristeza con lo acaecido en Haití, nuestra solidaridad con el pueblo haitiano. Tenemos dolor”, dijo Uribe

a una radio local. “El Gobierno colombiano ha previsto lo siguiente: se va a desplazar allí una delegación de ayuda con socorristas, (...) con personas de atención de desastres (...) en un avión militar tan pronto se pueda aterrizar”, explicó.

El presidente afirmó que Colombia enviaría también alimentos y medicinas a los damnificados en Haití. Por su parte la Dirección General de la Policía Nacional reportó que sus 26 efectivos que integran una misión de apoyo a Naciones Unidas en Puerto Príncipe sobrevivieron al terremoto y cumplen tareas de asistencia en medio de la tragedia. □



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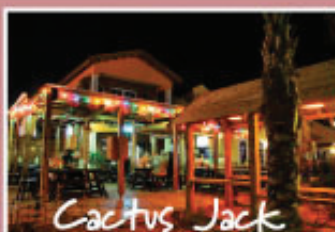


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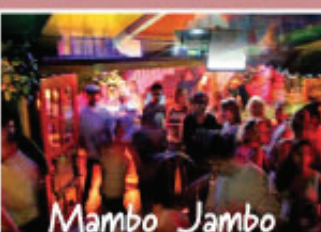
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